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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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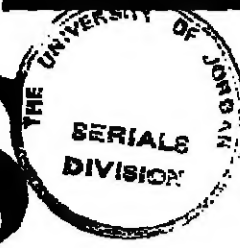
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THE TIMES



No. 65,290

SATURDAY JUNE 10 1995

Setback for conference militants

Teachers vote to reject Left's call for strike

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest teachers' union began to turn the tide against militants yesterday and decisively rejected a left-wing appeal for a one-day national strike over class sizes.

Members of the National Union of Teachers voted by more than four to one against the strike. The decision overturned a vote at the union's volatile Easter conference which was marred by the jostling of David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, by far-left delegates.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, hailed yesterday's result as a triumph over the "gesture politics" of left-wingers who had threatened to jeopardise parental support in the profession's campaign for increased education funding. The margin of victory was 66,979 votes to 16,404, with just over half the membership voting.

The decision effectively removes the threat of national action by teaching unions against rising class sizes. The moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers is expected to follow the NUT's lead and concentrate on building links with parents and governors to present a united front against cuts threatened by a government squeeze on education spending.

The second biggest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, began yesterday to consult members on an alternative strategy that will target individual schools and classes where funding cuts have increased members' workload. The campaign, which is not expected to bite until the start of the new school year in September, would involve sending pupils out of large classes to be supervised while normal lessons continue for the rest.

The NUT ballot result is a



McAvoy: "triumph over gesture politics"

damaging blow to activists who dominated highly charged debates at the Blackpool conference. Citing estimates of more than 12,000 threatened job losses, the far left persuaded delegates to back strike calls in defiance of appeals from parents, governors and politicians of all parties. The latest estimates suggest that 3,000 teachers will be made redundant, with others retiring early.

Mr McAvoy used his closing speech to launch an unprecedented public attack on some delegates, accusing them of "living in a fantasy world of unachievable aims, impossible goals and unsustainable targets". Stung by widespread condemnation of delegates who threatened Mr Blunkett and his guide dog Lucy, he appealed to ordinary classroom teachers to reclaim their union from extremists.

Yesterday Mr McAvoy contrasted the ballot result with the conference majority of almost 10,000 in favour of a strike. He accused some delegates of pursuing their own political agenda and said the vote showed how they were out of touch with ordinary teachers. He said: "This result is a clear indication that members do not want to see

the campaign for proper funding of the education service diverted into gesture politics. Such gestures would let the Government off the hook and destroy the alliance this union has built with parents, governors, local authorities and other teacher organisations."

The battle for control of the union, which is deeply split, threatens to be protracted, however. Fifteen left-wingers are expected to demand at a meeting of the national executive next week an investigation into Mr McAvoy's alleged adoption of "McCarthyite" tactics to smear those in favour of strikes.

Bernard Regan, a member of the executive, described yesterday's vote as "not a triumph for democracy but a travesty of democracy". He said: "The way in which the issues and the arguments were presented to members was a distortion and did not truly reflect the underlying feeling at conference. The leadership's campaign did no justice to the integrity of the people arguing for a strike."

Since the conference, Mr McAvoy has written three times to members repeating a warning that the union faced a takeover by the political extremists and urging members to make sure their views were not misrepresented.

Mr Blunkett welcomed yesterday's result. "Ordinary members of the NUT clearly recognise the importance of keeping parents onside in the campaign against education cuts."

The Department for Education said the decision was sensible. Margaret Morrissey, for the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, said: "Parents will now be even more determined to go forward with teachers in support of their campaign on class sizes."



After all the tears: Zara Albright plays with her overjoyed mother, Shabina

'Untouchable' toddler is given all-clear to go home

By PAUL WILKINSON

ZARA ALBRIGHT, two-and-a-half, who has spent the first years of her life sealed in a sterile room because she was born with no natural defences against illness, was preparing yesterday to go home for the first time.

She was diagnosed two years ago as suffering from severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome, a rare condition which means she had to breathe filtered, germ-free air and live in an 8ft by 4ft room in Newcastle General Hospital. Everything was sterilised to avoid infection, from each morsel of food to the toys she played with.

Apart from her medical team and her parents Simon, 37, and Shabina, 36, who had to don gown and mask to give their child a hug, she has had no contact with anyone. Mr Albright, an optician, worked a four-day week so that he could spend weekends in Newcastle upon Tyne with his wife, who lived with their daughter in the sterile room.

The improvement that will allow her to go home to Birmingham on Monday comes after four major operations, three minor ones and

chemotherapy during which time the child's bone marrow was replaced with marrow donated by her father.

Zara's parents knew something was seriously wrong with their baby within three months of her birth when she suddenly started losing weight rapidly. Mrs Albright knew about the syndrome, having helped to nurse her sister's child who died of the same ailment. When the condition was diagnosed, in March 1993, they were flown to Newcastle where there is one of only two units in the country specialising in the condition.

From that moment until last month her only trips were by ambulance to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle for her operations. Mr Albright said that the treatment was brutal. Doctors first had to kill off her own bone marrow, which was failing to produce immune cells. "One step in the wrong direction at that time and she would have been dead."

The first transplant was carried out two months after treatment began, but complications set in and in February

last year Zara had to have her spleen removed. Dr Andrew Cant, who lead the medical team, sought advice from specialists all over Europe and in April last year they decided on another marrow transplant from her father.

A second transplant was needed in January and then a month ago test results showed the first signs that her immune system was developing. Doctors say she is now making rapid progress.

Four weeks ago her parents wept for joy when they were told that their only child had improved enough to go out. To mark the occasion they took her on a car tour of the Northumberland countryside.

Mrs Albright said: "I can't wait to have her home to do all the normal things, especially to have her in my own bed and make her first meal. For the first six months I cried every day. I don't know what the word 'relaxed' means."

Dr Cant said: "The thing that is so remarkable about Zara is that she has survived. The previous longest was a little boy who lasted nine months. You can't say you are detached: I am a parent."

Times sets a sales record

Sales of *The Times* hit another record in May. At an average of 684,501 copies a day, they were up by 146,900 on a year ago — the highest increase achieved by any national newspaper — and by more than 24,000 (5.4 per cent) over the previous month, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

The circulation of *The Times* has nearly doubled since September 1993. Sales have risen by more than 310,000 copies a day, an increase of 66 per cent.

Police tape speakers

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE at Speakers' Corner in London's Hyde Park are to patrol with hidden cameras and tape recorders to try to curb increasing friction between rival religious and political groups.

Chief Inspector Alistair McLean, deputy chief officer of the group that patrols the royal parks, said the decision to use hidden cameras at Britain's most famous platform for free speech had been taken reluctantly but was necessary because police were receiving a rising number of demands from the public for action against different groups. "There has been de-

veloping at Speakers' Corner, not suddenly, but over a long period, religious fanaticism and political fundamentalism. It is Muslims and in some respects Christians who have become more vociferous in the way they are putting their dogma," Mr McLean said.

"At times their activities cause more than friction between factions, and also cause some offence to the public."

He said he had received letters from Christians and Muslims alike complaining of the language being used by speakers, some of whose remarks were causing distress to the public.

Racegoers shy away from Saturday Derby

By ANDREW PIERCE AND JENNAL COX

UNSETTLED weather and a forecast of even fewer racegoers than last year, have cast a cloud over today's Derby, switched to Saturday for the first time since the Queen's coronation.

Touts are said to be offering tickets at bargain prices while corporate entertaining has suffered in the shift from the traditional Wednesday.

the 2,000 Guineas, will start a short-priced favourite to clinch a long overdue first victory in the race for Sheikh Mohammed.

Advanced ticket sales have failed to take off for the race, which last year attracted 103,000 people. In the halcyon days of the Derby shortly after the war, up to 250,000 people swarmed over Epsom Downs for the race.

Edward Gillespie, managing director of United Racecourses, which runs

Epsom and is responsible for revamping this year's meeting, said that he hoped for a crowd of up to 75,000. "Obviously 100,000 would be nice but change takes time to be accepted. I believe it was important to move it to the weekend in common with all other major sporting events."

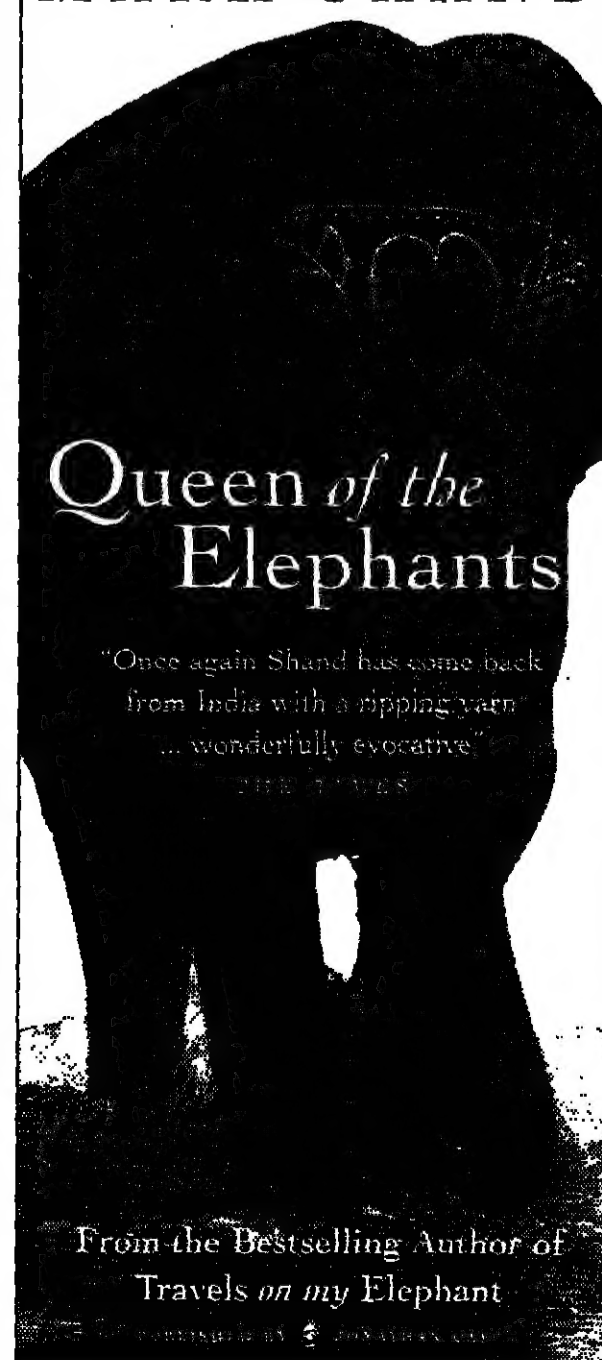
The meeting has been reduced from four to three consecutive days and rescheduled to later in the month. Mr Gillespie said: "It is only an experi-

ment which is intended to last for two years. If it is a disaster we will change it next year."

The omens yesterday — Oaks Day — were not good. Ticket touts were selling 50 seats for the prestige Club Enclosure for only £30. "It's a bloody disaster," exclaimed one heavily-tattooed tout who did not wish to be named.

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THE NEW BESTSELLER FROM
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From the bestselling author of
Travels on my Elephant

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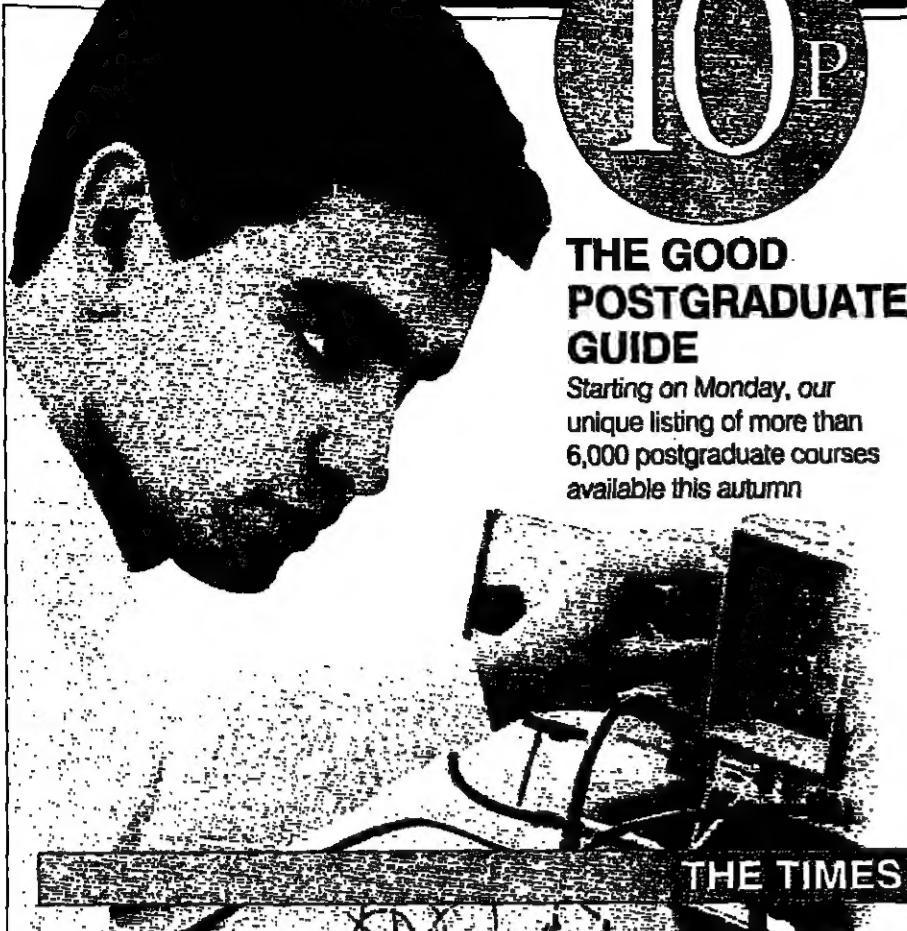
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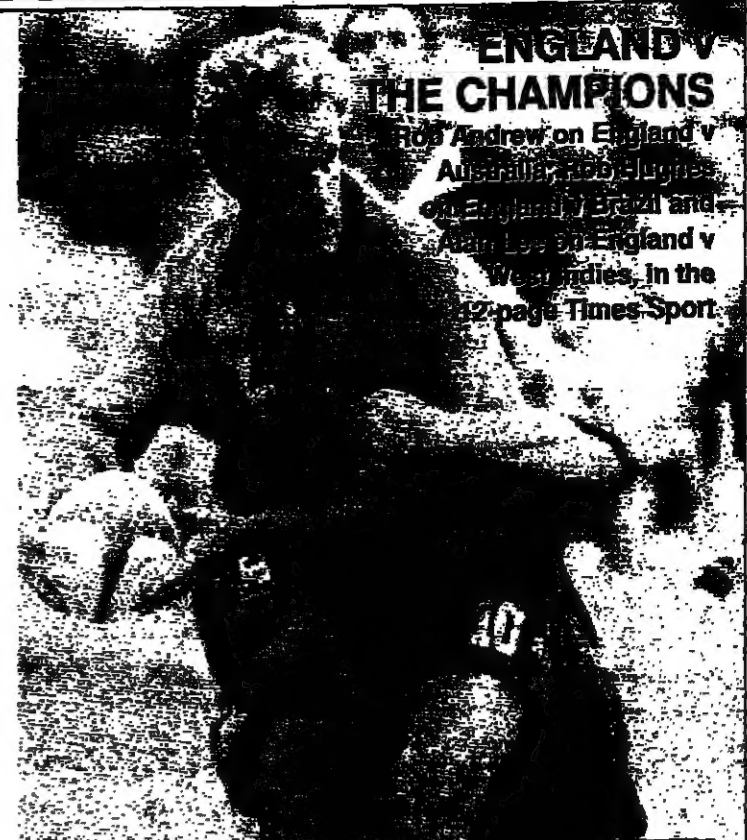
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THE TIMES AT 10p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

'Party has to do what it believes is best'

Labour will decide wage rate policy, Blair tells unions

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is willing to ride roughshod over trade union demands that a minimum wage should be fixed at a precise rate before the next general election.

The Labour leader made his position clear last night as Britain's second biggest union prepared to challenge him over the issue at this year's party conference.

The Transport and General Workers' Union submitted a resolution for the October conference calling for the party to set the minimum wage at half the adult median wage, about £4.15 an hour. The resolution is likely to be supported by several unions that have always called for a formula based on the median wage. Both the GMB general union and Unison, the public service union, are campaigning for a set rate.

However, after a day-long strategy meeting with the Shadow Cabinet Mr Blair argued that unions were entitled to have their opinion but the party would not be bound by it. The party leadership has chosen to wait until Labour is in government, then establish a commission of trade unionists, employers and government representatives that would set a rate in accordance

with the prevailing economic conditions.

"The unions are perfectly entitled to take their own view on it," Mr Blair said. "The Labour Party has to do what it believes is in the best interest of the country and that is what we will do. There is widespread support for the principle of a minimum wage but it has to be set and implemented sensibly."

The first test of the leadership's position will come today at the party's national policy forum in Reading. More than 100 delegates from constituency parties, local authorities and trade unions will discuss a policy paper spelling out the leadership's proposals on a minimum wage.

The policy forum can table amendments to documents that will go before Labour's national executive and trade union representatives are likely to push for a specific rate to be included in the paper.

Mr Blair warned his Shadow Cabinet last night to avoid complacency after the latest opinion poll put Labour 39 points ahead of the Tories. He told his colleagues that they could never take a general election victory for granted.

To counter accusations that Labour had no policies, he

outlined five key themes on which the party would focus over the summer: the economy, welfare reforms, building high quality public services with resources concentrated on the front line, fighting crime and "rolling back the quango state".

He said: "We are well-placed, but not for a single moment will we let up on the process of change and development in the party. We have come as far as we have come because people are prepared to believe in today's new Labour Party but we need to deepen that message and broaden our support."

□ The establishment of a committee of MPs to implement the Nolan reforms was delayed yesterday when Labour objected to the nomination of four Tories with several outside consultancies and directorships.

The committee is expected to draw up its first report on how to implement the reform of rules on MPs' outside interests within a month. Ministers hoped that the 11-strong membership would be approved yesterday but an objection from Brian Sedgemore (Lab, Hackney S and Shoreditch) will force a debate on the appointments next week.



Howard: austerity call

Howard limits prisoner spending

NEW limits on the amount of money prisoners can spend in jail were announced yesterday (Richard Ford writes). At the same time, the prison service unveiled plans to stop inmates from telephoning the media.

The curbs follow the Home Secretary's demand that the prison regime should be decent but austere and criticism that IRA prisoners at Whitemoor jail were able to spend hundreds of pounds on food and phone calls.

The new weekly spending limits on private cash will range from £2.50 to a maximum of £15 for convicted inmates, and £15 to £30 for remand prisoners.

To stop prisoners from telephoning media organisations, the service is testing the latest BT technology, which allows calls only to approved numbers.

Major tries to woo Lib-Dems after Ashdown realignment

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR yesterday urged Liberal Democrats disillusioned with Paddy Ashdown's leadership to switch to the Tories. He exploited Liberal Democrat anger over Mr Ashdown's decision to drop the party's traditional neutrality between Labour and the Conservatives by accusing him of "announcing the death of Liberalism".

Mr Ashdown's move has upset some of his leading activists and MPs, such as Liz Lynne, the MP for Rochdale, who regard Labour as their main opponent. It has caused tension in the run-up to the Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election in Greater Manchester, which is likely to involve a bitter Labour-Liberal Democrat battle to be seen as the main challenger to the vulnerable Tories.

Mr Major told the Welsh Conservative conference in Llangollen that the Tories had always known that Mr Ashdown would like to prop up a Labour government. "Mr Ashdown would not doubt be happy to be Minister for Morris Dancing in a Blair cabinet," he declared. "But the leader of the Liberal Democrats announcing the death of Liberalism as an independent political force is of some significance."

He then made his appeal to the disaffected. "Liberalism has in the past been a powerful force in the history of Wales. Whatever our quarrels with the Liberals, we should acknowledge that in parts of Wales they have fought socialism as vigorously as us."

"So I suspect there will be some Liberals who cannot stomach being a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Labour Party. They know now from the lips of their own leader that there is now only one political party in this country which is committed to fighting the divisive, illiberal force of socialism and state control: us."

Those Liberals who still supported the ancient Liberal virtues of individual liberty,

limiting the state and ever-wider opportunity were welcome to join the Tories. "Only the Conservative Party now stands for those values. We are open to anyone who shares them."

The day after the Cabinet set in a hand a two-year battle plan for the next election, Mr Major brushed aside the latest dismal poll ratings and declared that he had "no time for faintheartedness in this party". He went on: "At the next election we will defeat Labour and their fellow travellers just as decisively as we have at the last four."

He launched a blistering attack on Labour's stance on Europe and its plans for devolution, as he hammered home one of his party's new campaigning themes of Britain as a sovereign nation. Labour's support for the social chapter and a national minimum wage were "the ball and chain" which would cripple British chances of winning in the world's markets.

The Prime Minister said that Labour's devolution plans would potentially set each part of the United Kingdom against the others. Its proposal for a Welsh assembly was an insult to Wales, the left-overs of its plans for Scotland.



Ashdown: ending neutrality

Life sentence for male rape attempt

The first man to be convicted of attempted male rape made legal history when he was jailed for life yesterday. Andrew Richards would have faced a maximum ten years' imprisonment for non-consensual buggery before the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 1994.

The Old Bailey was told that Richards, 25, a Welshman of no fixed address, attacked an 18-year-old fellow resident at a hostel for the homeless in London after luring him to Regent's Park. He was convicted last month of attempted rape, indecent assault and assault. Judge Laughland, QC, praised the courage of the victim for reporting the attack and giving evidence in court.

Tunnel drugs charge

A man has been charged with drug smuggling after 25,000 Ecstasy tablets worth £400,000 were found in the spare tyre of a car at the entrance to the Channel Tunnel in France. Milton Jerrard, 55, a self-employed chauffeur from Chigwell, Essex, is being held at Dover and is expected to appear in court today. In a separate incident, four men were arrested when Ecstasy and cannabis valued at £8 million was shipped into Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Solicitors struck off

A husband and wife were both ordered to be struck off the Solicitors' Roll yesterday for gross professional misconduct. Gordon Thomson, 36, and his wife, Maria, 34, of Edinburgh, made fraudulent claims of £30,000 to the Legal Aid Board, the Scottish Solicitors Discipline Tribunal was told. The tribunal said the couple ran their firm generally in a manner that brought the profession of solicitors into disrepute.

Stabbed PC recovering

PC Adam Smith, 28, who was stabbed when he confronted a man armed with two knives in the West End of London, was out of intensive care in the Middlesex Hospital last night and well enough to sit up in bed and talk to visitors. He was stabbed in the chest after taking a blow intended for a doorman during a fracas outside a club in Soho on Thursday night. Two Tactical Support Group officers were also wounded in the struggle to arrest the attacker.

Boy, 14, on rape charges

A boy aged 14 accused of raping two 12-year-old girls on May 31, indecently assaulting two other 12-year-olds on March 19 and indecently assaulting an 11-year-old girl on March 30 was remanded to secure accommodation for a week by Oldham Youth Court, Greater Manchester. He said nothing during the 15-minute hearing but nodded to confirm his name, age and address. All the alleged offences took place in Oldham.

Christian radio on air

The first Christian radio station in Britain goes on air at 3pm today with a prayer of dedication by the Bishop of Southwark. The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, will be a guest this weekend on the station, called Premier Radio. It is owned by the Christian Media Trust and will broadcast to London and the Home Counties on 1332AM, 1305AM and 1413AM. If successful it will expand to other cities. Credo, page 11; At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

Stock Exchange fear over sell-offs

Continued from page 1

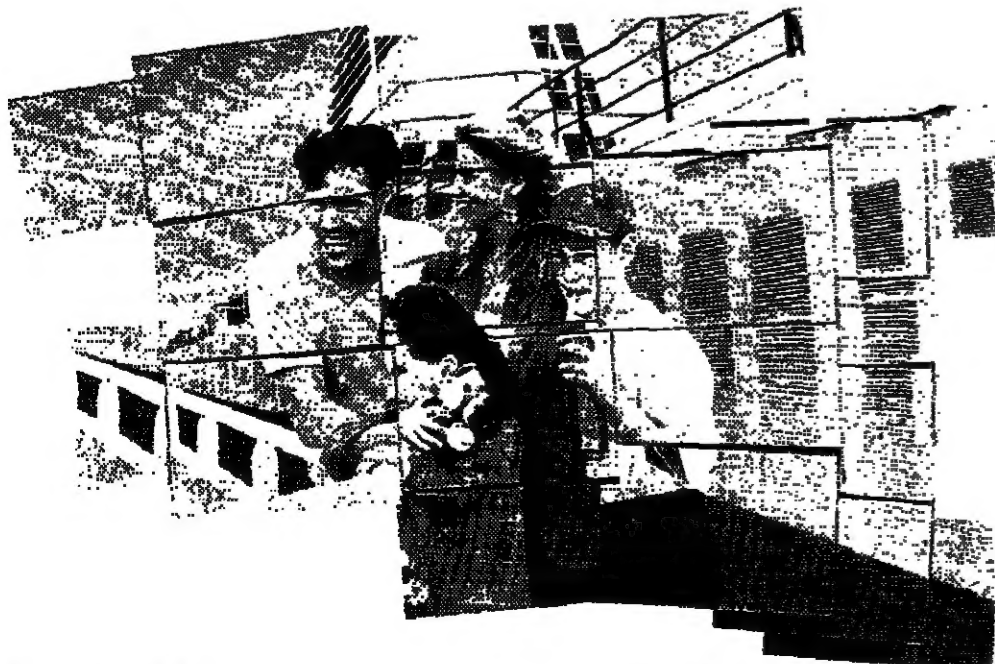
about the next two large privatisations — of the railway network and nuclear electric — would also be damaged by the sell-off. "There has been quite a little bit of damage. A few weeks ago I was in the United States and a number of major funds there, with a lot of money invested in London, made it clear they were unhappy." Asked whether the controversy might scupper the forthcoming privatisations, he said: "There will be an investors' perception of greater risk which would actually manifest itself more in the nature of price than in the nature of acceptability." Yesterday, Sir George

Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was forced to make an emergency Commons statement defending the Government's position as the clamour for action grew. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, criticised the decision to let the Treasury investigate its own conduct.

The Prime Minister tried to defuse the controversy while attending the Welsh Conservative conference in Llangollen. "The hysteria with which this has been greeted is quite extraordinary," he said that the Stock Exchange had carried out an internal investigation, produced a letter detailing the sequence of events and suggested the Treasury make further

investigations. "The Treasury have decided they would do that. Once they have done that, they will publish the outcome of those investigations."

The PowerGen and National Power shares are offering small investors who bought at the time, in ignorance of Professor Littlechild's proposed action, a good profit. The shares were sold to the public at 170p for National Power and 185p for PowerGen, the more highly regarded in the City. Those who hold the first company were last night looking at a 37½p profit, or a gain of 22 per cent, while PowerGen shares have since risen by 23p, or 12 per cent.



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Old Bailey judge jails 'thoroughly wicked' fraudster who chopped down healthy trees

Conman charged £3,700 to create garden wasteland

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A CONFIDENCE trickster who chopped down every tree in a beautiful garden except the only one which needed felling was jailed yesterday for five years.

Walter Smith, 35, charged the fearful owner £3,700 for destroying five trees with a hand saw. An Old Bailey judge told him he was "a thoroughly wicked and dishonest man".

Olgier Zebrowski, his victim, said last night that he had been unable to look at his garden since all but one of the trees had been felled. "He deserved five years, maybe more, for what he has done. I had established a sort of wild nature reserve which that man turned into a wasteland. It will take many years to restore — I only hope that I am alive to see it," added 57-year-old Mr Zebrowski. "This has caused me so much distress. It is not just the destruction of my garden, but the amount of money that awful man charged."

Sarah Plaschkes, for the prosecution, told an earlier hearing that Smith was already on bail for a £1,500 deception involving an elderly man when he visited the house



Smith: preyed on elderly

of Mr Zebrowski, a retired telegraphist, in Hounslow, west London. Smith, who had a long record of similar offences, mainly involving the elderly, told the gardening enthusiast that his neighbours on both sides had complained that his trees were so badly diseased they were worried their own gardens would be affected. This was a lie, said Miss Plaschkes. No one had complained.

Mr Zebrowski handed over £3,700 and was told that five trees would be felled. The

work could have been done for £60 plus VAT by a competent tree surgeon. Mr Zebrowski faces a bill estimated at thousands of pounds to redesign the plot. One old pear tree was left untouched. Unfortunately, it was the only one that needed to be cut down.

On one visit, Smith brought a six-year-old girl and told Mr Zebrowski that she was the daughter of his workmate, who had been helping him in his garden. "He said his friend had been electrocuted by my lawn mower and that I was to blame. He asked if I would like to contribute to the funeral and I gave him £1,500," said Mr Zebrowski.

Smith, of Fulham, south-west London, admitted three charges of deception. At the previous hearing he collapsed as the judge was about to sentence him and was taken to hospital. He appeared in the dock yesterday with his arm in a sling.

Richard Matthews, for the defence, said Smith had a broken finger and damaged hand. He suffered from blackouts and a severe stutter since his boxing days and was in constant need of painkillers. Smith had been hoping to pay compensation to his previ-



Olgier Zebrowski with the only tree Smith left: "It will take years to restore my garden. I hope I live to see it"

ous victim by selling his car and property which he jointly owned with his wife. Since his wife had now left him, this was not possible. Mr Matthews said Smith was shocked, disappointed and hurt by his wife's departure. Smith has offered to sell his only possession, a £6,500 car-

van, to compensate Mr Zebrowski. Mr Recorder Clegg, QC, who saw Smith collapse in the dock at the previous hearing, said: "The chances of anyone getting a victim who through age or incapacity is compliant to your demands you bleed them for every penny you can put your dishonest hands on."

He told Smith: "You have made a career out of this particular type of crime. Crimes that are particularly repulsive. Having found a victim who through age or incapacity is compliant to your demands you bleed them for every penny you can put your dishonest hands on."

The judge said Smith had betrayed the trust of Kingston Crown Court, which had allowed him bail, by committing these offences. Smith was sentenced to five years' imprisonment consecutive to the two-year sentence he was already serving for deception, making a total of seven years.

Safeway fined for onion in salad

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Safeway supermarket chain was ordered to pay more than £2,000 yesterday because a shop assistant failed to tell a customer there was onion in a salad he bought.

York magistrates found Britain's fourth largest store group guilty of selling a tuna and pasta mayonnaise salad that was not of the substance demanded by the customer, at its branch at Acomb, York, last July. Safeway, which had denied the charge, was fined £1,750 and ordered to pay £585 costs.

Richard Morton, 49, a picture framer from York, was left in agony when the onion triggered an allergy, the court was told. Stuart Pudney, for the prosecution brought by North Yorkshire trading standards department, said: "Mr Morton is allergic to onions but he was told by a shopgirl and her supervisor that the salad didn't contain the vegetable before he bought it."

He said the salad was labelled legally because as loose and unpacked food it was not necessary to list all its 18 ingredients. "But it is what he was told that amounted to an offence under the food safety regulations, not the labelling on the counter."

The delicatessen counter assistant and her supervisor both said the salad did not contain onion. Mr Pudney said: "What they should have said in answer to the question was that they didn't know."

Bigamist who abducted baby gets three years

By KATE ALDERSON

A MOTHER of three who abducted a new-born baby was sentenced to three years' imprisonment yesterday for abduction and bigamy. Chester Crown Court was told that the abducted baby's mother, Christine Owens, 32, from Llandudno, had found it difficult to resume the role of a normal mother since the abduction.

Susan Brooke, 39, took three-day-old Lydia when her husband told her, 14 months into a "fantasy pregnancy", that he would leave if she had not had the baby by the weekend.

Brooke was not divorced from her third husband when she married Phil Brooke, ten years her junior. She believed he would leave her if she did not have a child.

Mr Justice Scott Baker sentenced Brooke to 2½ years for abducting Lydia from the Glan Clwyd Hospital in Bodelwyddan, Clwyd, and to six months for committing bigamy. He told her: "You are an accomplished, manipulative and determined liar. I am satisfied you planned the abduction of this child with some care."

The court was told that Brooke went to the hospital four months ago to abduct a baby. The prosecution said she had visited the hospital on a number of occasions and took a sports duffel bag with her to smuggle out a child. She made her way to the six-bed maternity ward and struck up

a conversation with Mrs Owens about her new baby, asking about the child's name and weight.

The two women shared a coffee and a chat until Brooke told Mrs Owens she was going to the lavatory. While Mrs Owens remained in the day room, Brooke took Lydia from her cot and walked out of the hospital with her in the bag. Within minutes Mrs Owens realised her child was missing and a massive police search started.

Two tip-off telephone calls from local women alerted police officers to Lydia's whereabouts. The baby was discovered within 20 hours of the abduction lying on a bed in a cot between Mr and Mrs Brooke in their bungalow in Rhyl, Clwyd.

Mrs Brooke immediately told detectives: "It's here. I shouldn't have taken it. I have done it no harm. I was afraid my husband was going to leave me, that's why I did it." Brooke has three children, Lisa, 18, Joanne, 16, and Mark, 21; two stepchildren and five grandchildren. She was sterilised in 1978.

Lydia Owens, now more than four months old, is described by her family as healthy and extremely well. However, the court was told that Mrs Owens is now afraid to allow her children out of her sight, her eldest daughter travels to school in a taxi and she still worries about the time her baby was away from her.

Obsessed PC lied over speed checks

By LUCY BERRINGTON

A VILLAGE policeman became so obsessed by speeding motorists that he perverted the course of justice to secure convictions, a court was told yesterday.

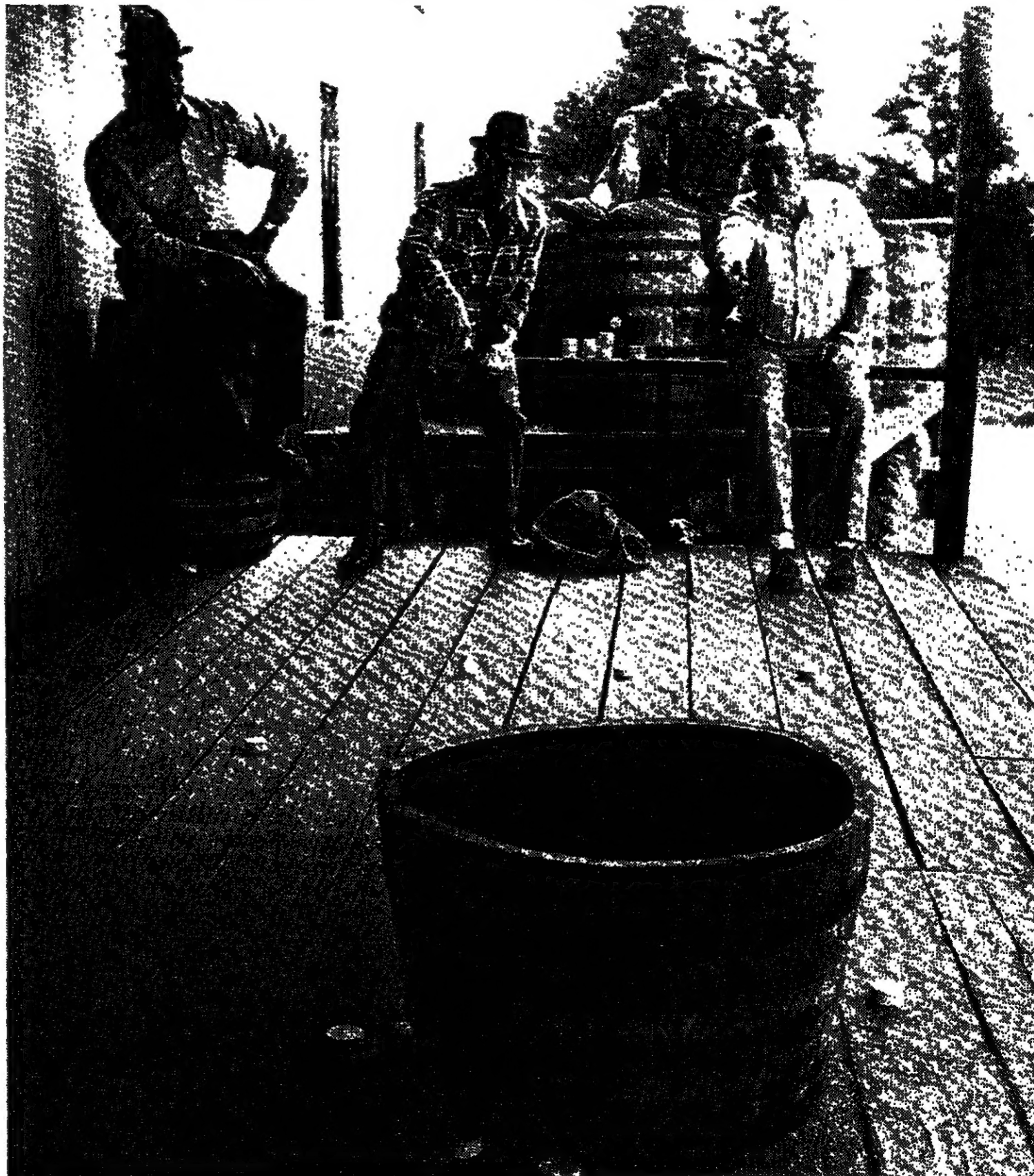
PC Barry Vine, 49, who was described as the epitome of a village bobby, was haunted by the carnage he had seen on the roads during his 16 years in the force, and regularly set up speed traps in the Northamptonshire villages of Spraton and Cretton, Northampton Crown Court was told.

After pulling over two motorists and giving them speeding tickets, he failed to check that his radar gun was working. He later lied on a police form, saying that he had carried out the check.

He admitted trying to pervert the course of justice and was given a conditional discharge. Judge Crane told him: "You cut corners. Your zeal unfortunately became an obsession."

Sam Mainds, for the defence, said that Vine loved being a policeman, but he was now likely to lose his job. He was being treated in a psychiatric hospital.

A traffic warden who issued more than 4,000 parking tickets last year is to receive an award for her "outstanding work-rate". Angela Hallam, 43, who works in Southsea, will receive a Certificate of Commendation from John Hoddinott, Chief Constable of Hampshire.



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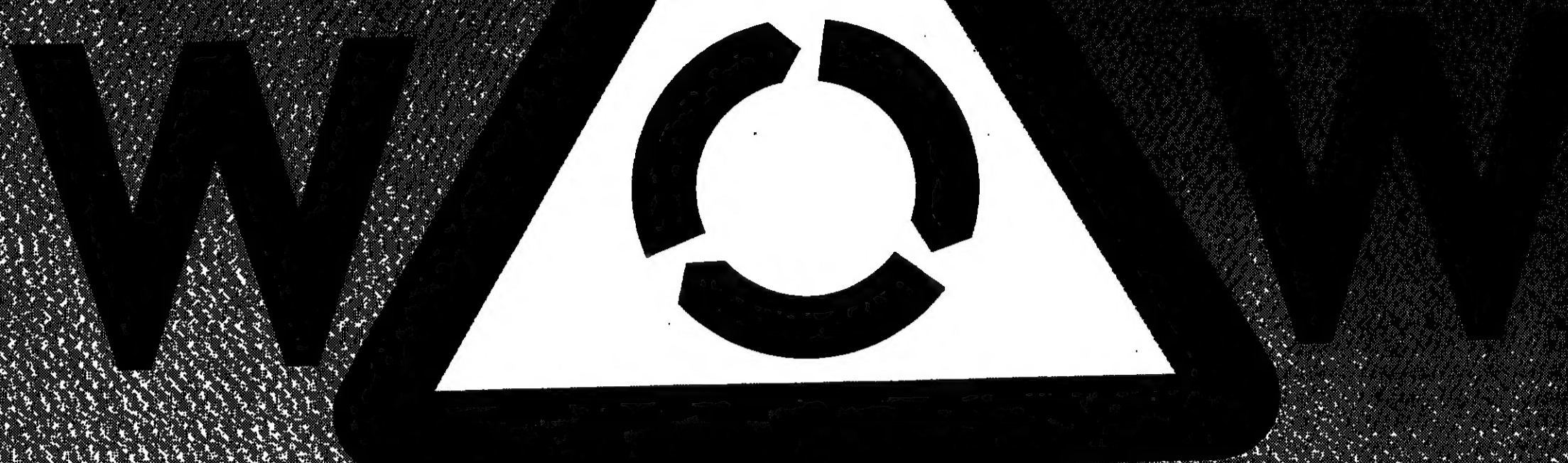
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RSC to abandon London in peak tourist season

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PLANS by the Royal Shakespeare Company to leave its London home at the Barbican Centre for six months of the year and to set up bases in other cities were greeted with dismay in the capital yesterday.

The London Tourist Board said that the decision by Adrian Noble, the RSC's artistic director, to take the company out of London during the summer months from 1997 was "ridiculous".

London probably has the most vibrant theatre in the world and the idea that Shakespeare will not be adequately represented seems unbelievable. More than 40 per cent of all tickets for London theatres are bought by overseas tourists, many of whom come here to go to the theatre, a spokeswoman for the board said.

One of the RSC's paymasters, the Corporation of London, said it also regretted the move. Michael Cassidy, chairman of the corporation's policy committee, said: "Our initial shock horror reaction

has now been dispersed. We will now be trying to offer regional companies, such as the Bristol Vic, the chance to perform in London."

Outlining the changes yesterday, Mr Noble said that the RSC had a duty to increase its access across the nation as the millennium approaches. "For the next five years my major task in guiding the artistic development of this national company must be to ensure that the best of the RSC's work is seen as widely as possible throughout the United Kingdom," he said.

Under the plans, the RSC will extend its touring programme to include larger theatres and more venues. It also plans to set up more residences outside London, modelled on the five-week residency it operates in Newcastle upon Tyne every year, and to step up its educational workshops. The company, which receives an £8.5 million Arts Council subsidy, will continue to mount productions all year round at

Stratford-upon-Avon. The move has the full backing of the RSC's governors as well as the Arts Council, which ten days ago published a discussion paper encouraging Britain's national companies to increase their touring.

Theatres outside London also gave the plans a cautious welcome. Ruth McKenzie, executive director of the Nottingham Playhouse, said she hoped the RSC would be prepared to work on co-productions with other theatre companies and not just stage its own productions. "We would be delighted to work in partnership with them," she said.

Patric Gilchrist, general manager of the Theatre Chwyd, said he welcomed the idea in principle. "I do fear, however, that a well-resourced company such as the RSC might upstage the regional theatres' own work by coming in, doing a short hit-and-run production and then leaving," he said.

Leading article, page 19



Sammy the sealion, whose tricks will not be rewarded with mackerel. His keeper said: "We do not want to encourage him to perform for food."

Show-off sealion is trained to stop doing tricks

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A YOUNG sealion's days of standing on his flippers and barking for his fish supper are numbered.

Growing public concern over teaching tricks to wild animals has led keepers of Sammy, a sealion at Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire, to train him out of his compulsive barking and acrobatics. The six-year-old bull has been put on a strict

programme of rehabilitation and will no longer be rewarded with his daily 15th of mackerel when he barks or shows off. He will be fed only when he is swimming quietly in the lake. Sammy has been barking constantly since his transfer to Wiltshire from the Welsh Mountain Zoo near Colwyn Bay. Longleat does not believe in teaching animals tricks but the keepers at his former home claim he enjoyed daily sessions of flipper-

walking and balancing balls on his nose. Peter Dickinson, head keeper at the Welsh Mountain Zoo, said sealions picked up tricks very quickly. He said: "It is part of a programme designed to make life more interesting for the animals. Sealions in particular would soon get bored if they had no stimulation. I would never force an animal to do something it did not like."

However, Keith Harris, head war-

den at Longleat, said Sammy's bad habits and barking needed to be discouraged. He said: "Sammy remembers his tricks from Colwyn Bay but here at Longleat we do not encourage animals to perform for food. The noise he makes is so loud it was too much to bear. He developed a habit of splashing sightseers to make them feed him."

Leading article, page 19

Driver blamed for train deaths

BY JONATHAN PROYN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A TRAIN driver ignored an alarm in his cab warning him that he had passed a red signal and ploughed head-on into another train, killing himself and four other people.

The official report into the crash, at Cowden, Kent, last October concluded that Brian Barton, 31, the driver of the northbound train, had been "wholly responsible" for the accident.

"To have driven on... to a point where he must have realised that the signal had been passed is not only inexcusable and blameworthy but also totally irresponsible," the Health and Safety Executive said.

The inquiry also found that the crash could have been avoided if advanced automatic safety systems had been installed in the trains or if they had been equipped with in-cab radio. Major Kit Holden, the HSE investigator who wrote the report, concluded: "I do not believe that this situation is acceptable now any more

than it was in 1989 when Sir Anthony Hadden made his report into the 1988 Clapham crash."

The two drivers, a British Rail guard and two passengers died and 13 passengers were injured when the trains collided in thick fog on the single-track line from Oxford, Surrey, to Uckfield, East Sussex, on October 15.

Mr Barton had been accompanied in the cab, in breach of BR rules, by the guard, Jonathan Brett-Andrews, 36, described in the report as a "somewhat extrovert, talkative character" who had been given three warnings about riding in drivers' cabs.

It has been suggested that Mr Brett-Andrews was driving the northbound train at the time of the accident. Major Holden said yesterday he would be giving more details as to who was at the controls in the second part of his report, which would be published after the inquest into the deaths.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

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The road from serfdom

'The politics and economics of post-communism' — an evening of discussion with Robert Skidelsky



THE challenges which face the post-communist world will be discussed by Robert Skidelsky at a Times/Dillons forum on Tuesday, June 27. He will explore the themes raised in his latest book, *The World After Communism*, in which he charts the rise and fall of collectivism and outlines a strategy to prevent its re-emergence.

The key, Lord Skidelsky argues, is to develop a new "constitution of liberty", one which recognises the need for the state to offer a secure framework for markets, but which also limits the ambitions of the state to those tasks for which people are

prepared to pay in common. Daniel Johnson, Literary Editor of *The Times*, will chair the forum, which will be held at Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1 on Tuesday, June 27 at 7.30 pm. Tickets at £10 each (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of Lord Skidelsky's book, are available by calling 0171-636 3435 ext. 240, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, where tickets can also be purchased in person.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

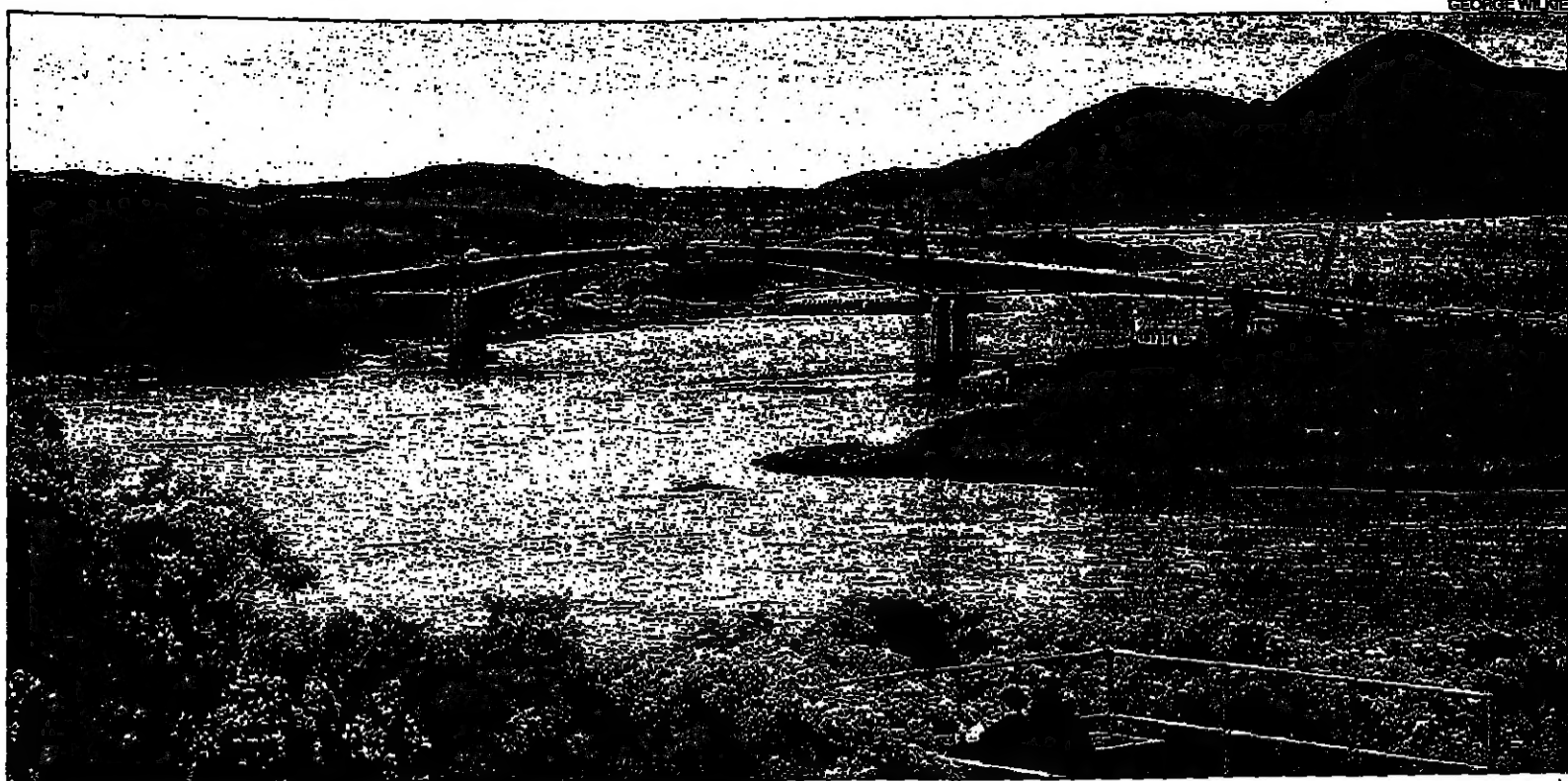


1000 Makers of the Cinema

Tomorrow, FREE with The Sunday Times, collect part two of the definitive history of 100 years of films and film-makers. All eight parts of 1000 Makers of the Cinema can be collected in a special binder to create a 240-page encyclopaedia of film. There is also £3 off high-quality videos of the 100 greatest films ever made.

Ted and me

Also tomorrow, Margaret Thatcher's own story of how she beat Edward Heath to become Tory leader.



The £30 million Skye Bridge, which is expected to open this autumn after three years of building work. Only a 13ft gap remains in the middle

Children take historic walk over the sea from Skye

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ELEVEN children took a short stroll into history yesterday by becoming the first islanders from Skye to walk to the Scottish mainland. Led by two teachers, they became the first people apart from construction workers to

cross the new £30 million Skye road bridge.

Their trip took about half an hour each way. In the middle, where there is still a 13ft gap between the two ends of the roadway, they descended to a catwalk slung underneath.

The bridge, between Kiltakin and Kyle of Lochalsh, will not officially

open until autumn, three years after building began. Its 780ft main span is believed to make it the longest single-span bridge in Europe.

Tolls are due to be set this month and are expected to be £5.20 for cars in peak season and £4.30 in the off-season. The tolls have upset some locals who believe that they are being

held to ransom by a private monopoly, as the bridge will replace the two ferries that currently ply the route.

The Skye Bridge has been built with private money by The Miller Group and the German company Dywidag, which will receive the revenue from tolls for at least 15 years, depending on traffic.

Ancient track destroyed by maintenance workers

By IAN MURRAY

A 300-YARD stretch of one of Britain's main prehistoric tracks, which crosses the designated World Heritage Site including Stonehenge, has been destroyed after a breakdown in communications between two government agencies and a county council.

The rutted section of the 5,000-year-old Ridge Way was destroyed by contractors who were supposed to be resurfacing nearly half a mile of the track, which had been badly damaged by four-wheel-drive vehicles and cross-country motorbikes. Work was halted on Thursday morning after archaeologists protested to the Countryside Commission, English Heritage and Wiltshire County Council.

The Ridge Way is officially a national trail and as such the local council is responsible for its upkeep. A planning inquiry last year ruled that it was not possible to prevent vehicles from using what was an historic route from Wiltshire to Hertfordshire, increasing the need for maintenance.

The Countryside Commission, which has a duty to ease access to rural places, has a budget for maintenance work. English Heritage has overall responsibility for the care of important sites. Yesterday the three bodies were blaming each other.

Wiltshire County Council said it was under pressure from the commission to repair the badly rutted section and had been warned that it would lose a 75 per cent grant towards the cost if the job was not finished by the end of this month. "A long-promised archaeological survey by English Heritage has failed to materialise," the council said in a statement. "This would have gone some way towards avoiding the situation."

Sarah Barlow at the Countryside Commission said: "It

was Wiltshire which sent in the bulldozers. We acted in good faith and were prepared to extend the deadline for the grant as we had done several times already. The point is that this is a national trail and we have to offer it to as many people as possible for as much of the year as possible."

Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archaeologist of English Heritage, said: "The Countryside Commission should have spoken more clearly to Wiltshire. There are no scheduled monuments on this site so we have no locus there."

"We did write to all the authorities concerned a month ago to suggest a management plan be prepared and we offered to pay for it, but we heard back only from Avebury Parish Council."

"It really is a very nasty business. Ripping up flints and replacing them with Coswold stone. What on earth did they think they were doing?"

Duncan Coe, the Wiltshire county archaeologist, said he had continually warned the council against doing anything until there had been a proper assessment of what was involved. "Now, this stretch is lost for ever."



Wainwright: nasty business

'Salisbury hoard' thieves avoid jail

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO treasure hunters who stole a valuable hoard of Iron and Bronze Age artefacts, part of which was bought by the unsuspecting former Conservative Party treasurer Lord McAlpine, walked free from court yesterday.

James Garrick, 43, and Terrence Rossiter, 47, nodded their thanks to Judge Horden, QC, who said that "exceptional circumstances" enabled him to suspend their nine-month prison terms for a year. The men unearthed more than 500 items in a field near Salisbury, Wiltshire, ten years ago without the landowner's knowledge.

They made more than £5,000 each, selling most of their haul of tools, weapons, ornaments and jewellery — some 4,000 years old — to a

dealer. Passing sentence at Knightsbridge Crown Court, Judge Horden said: "Both of you knew that you should have reported what you had found. You had enough knowledge to appreciate that you had come across something of very considerable archaeological importance and that if you did not report it the archaeological value of what you had found might well be considerably impaired, if not lost."

Their dishonesty was so serious that prison sentences had to be passed, but they could be suspended because not only had a long time elapsed since they discovered what had become known as the "Salisbury Hoard", but he could understand "the excitement and the temptation which was placed before you".

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مكتبة النور

SMART money be damned. Where's the really INTELLIGENT money going?



[Pork Bellies?]



[Major Brewers?]

well clear [in itself a valuable investment decision]. Even more occasionally, we come across as what can only be described as buried treasure: companies whose low stock market price is simply out of line with its true underlying value. And that's the point at which intelligent money makes its move: climbing aboard a bandwagon that's deserted. And on its way up. Scottish Amicable now has funds of £12 billion under management. And we're currently receiving £4 million a day to invest. If you would like to hear more about our wide range of funds, talk to your financial adviser. Alternatively call 0990 600 200 for a free copy of our



[Oil Barrels?]

"Investment Opportunities" brochure and a list of professional financial advisers in your area. Of course, if you've got any hard and searching questions to ask about us, please go ahead and ask them. In your position, we'd do exactly the same.

NOWADAYS, PEOPLE ARE WAKING UP to the truth about smart money.

And the truth is, it's really not that smart.

It's the kind of money that's happy to trade in rumours. That slavishly follows fashions. That clammers hopefully onto bandwagons already crowded to capacity. Intelligent money is different.

It relies on hard facts and cold logic. Often it can seem wilfully out of step with the rest of the market.

And the only time it'll clamber onto a bandwagon is when the bandwagon is empty — and probably going the other way.

At Scottish Amicable, intelligent money has always been our preferred form of currency.

If only because it seems to generate the most consistently high returns for our

investors. Take, for example, Scottish Amicable's managed life fund, launched in February 1981. If you were to assess its performance from that date to each subsequent launch anniversary, it appears consistently amongst the top quarter of all companies.* As our colleagues in the industry will ruefully concede, it's a remarkable achievement. And they may be asking themselves quite how we've managed to repeat it fourteen times in a row.

Our secret, if we have a secret, is something that's easy to define but very hard to come by: superior company information. Needless to say, the analysts at Scottish Amicable put in a lot of sheer hard work on your behalf to get it. To begin with, they assess no fewer than 1,200 carefully selected target

companies every year. Not just by sitting at their desks staring at data and company reports [though heaven knows there are many analysts happy to do just that].

They actually head out into the field and visit each company in person. It's an expensive business, but in our experience the investment pays handsome dividends.

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What is the true cost structure of the company? Are they over-reliant on a single supplier? Or a single customer? Is the management itself impressive?

And how about the Chief Executive? Is he worth his pay? Is there a decent successor in place?

These are the kinds of questions that simply can't be answered by perusing a company's balance sheet.

Yet by persistently digging around in this way, it's amazing what our analysts can unearth. Occasionally we come across something rather nasty, so we steer

Scottish Amicable
Life
is CHANGING.

مكتبة الشارقة

Britain feared rebirth of Nazism in Hungary

...and the

Widows of Chinook victims accuse MoD of betrayal

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

WIDOWS of the anti-terrorism experts who died when an RAF helicopter crashed into the Mull of Kintyre just over a year ago accused the Government yesterday of dishonouring their husbands' names.

The women, speaking in Belfast at the launch of a campaign for greater compensation, said they felt betrayed by the Ministry of Defence. Their solicitors say that the Government intends to make a lump-sum payment of just £110,000 each on top of their husbands' pensions.

All 29 people on board the Chinook helicopter died in the crash during a flight from Belfast to Scotland, where the experts were to attend an anti-terrorism conference. The victims included ten members of the RUC Special Branch and nine Army officers.

The widows could be entitled to payments ranging from

£250,000 to £500,000 if they sued for loss of earnings. Dr Susan Phoenix, 45, widow of Detective Superintendent Ian Phoenix, broke down as she said that the Government placed no value on her husband and wanted only to save money. "I feel immense sadness that this had to happen."

We are saying to the Government: you are dishonest, you have dishonoured our men and we are very very sad. "Perhaps the Government thought they had some nice little ladies here in Northern Ireland who would not kick up a fuss. Well, they didn't know our husbands and they didn't know us."

Jill Davidson, 45, widow of Detective Superintendent Philip Davidson, said: "There is no one in this world who thinks I am the most special person in their life. You can't replace that with money but

you can stand up for what they stood up for."

Aidan Canavan, a solicitor representing 14 of the widows, claimed that the MoD planned to compensate the widows under the Warsaw Convention. The helicopter flight would be described as a civilian transport undertaking, which would lead to payment of a fixed sum.

He wrote yesterday to Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, demanding an assurance that the Government would not take that course. Mr Canavan said the widows would sue if their compensation was restricted to £110,000.

It is understood that the report into the accident, expected to be published within weeks, will blame pilot error. The MoD said yesterday that it could not comment until the widows had been told of the inquiry's conclusion.



One of the widows yesterday. They plan to sue the Government unless it offers them adequate compensation

Kegworth family awarded £338,000

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE family of Kathleen Ryan, one of 47 people killed in the M1 plane crash at Kegworth in 1989, were awarded £338,764 damages at the High Court yesterday.

The compensation for her husband Michael and their four sons, aged 15 to 23, included the £3,600 cost of a memorial headstone. The judge, Sir Michael Davies, said it was "only reasonable" that the family should want "a striking and impressive memorial to her".

Mrs Ryan, a 41-year-old home help from Kenilworth, northwest London, was "a devoted wife and mother and a conscientious and determined woman", he said.

The damages are to be paid by British Midland Airways and four other companies responsible for the supply and construction of the engines of the Boeing 737-400 which crashed near Kegworth. They all admitted liability.

Fear of litigation makes smear test staff overcautious

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FEAR of being sued is causing a huge increase in the numbers of women diagnosed as having abnormal cervical smears, researchers say today.

Staff in screening laboratories are so afraid of litigation if they miss a case of cancer that they are detecting more than twice as many women with minor abnormalities as ten years ago. Most of the women turn out to have no serious disease and worry needlessly.

Researchers in Bristol say that one in ten young women is identified as being at risk of the cancer but only one in many thousands will be affected. Despite the striking increase in minor abnormalities there has been no corresponding increase in severe abnormalities.

Dr Angela Raffle and colleagues say in *The Lancet* that in the past decade there have been many threatened court cases over the reading of smears. "Staff live in fear of being blamed for failing to prevent cases of invasive cancer. The desire to avoid over-diagnosis, which in the past kept the detection rates low, has now been outweighed by the need to avoid any possibility of being held responsible for missing a case."

The authors say that in Bristol 15,000 women were told something was amiss

with their smears between 1988 and 1993. More than 5,500 were referred for further investigation and treatment

for a disease that would never have troubled them and are being left with problems that include lasting worries about cancer, difficulties in obtaining life insurance and worries concerning the effect of their treatment on their subsequent reproductive ability.

The researchers also say that despite the high detection of abnormal smears, the cervical screening scheme has had no effect on the death rate from cervical cancer in Bristol.

This claim is rejected by Professor David Skegg, a leading authority on screening, who says it is too early for the national programme, introduced in 1988, to have affected the death rate. He says an increase in the disease in women under 40, linked with a period of greater sexual freedom, has made screening more important.

Catherine Luke, of the cervical screening programme, said: "We don't want to cause any unnecessary anxiety but we feel where there is doubt it is better to err on the side of caution. It is an unacceptably high risk not to investigate or treat something that could develop into a life-threatening condition."

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مكتبة القرآن

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 10 1995

Fresh infusion 'could boost economy, arts and sport'

'Negative' immigration policy wrong, says bishop

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first Asian bishop urged the Government yesterday to promote immigration to remedy skill shortages and boost the economy, arts and sports.

Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, who was born and educated in Pakistan, said that every country needed fresh infusions of blood to enrich life and culture. Asian immigrants could provide much-needed skills in small businesses to revitalise local communities and create jobs.

Britain needed a positive immigration policy rather than the measures planned by the Government to counter illegal immigration, speed up asylum procedures and curb benefits for asylum seekers. "I think they are wrong," he said. "All the studies show that people who come in from outside enrich the arts, sport and business. The country needs their skills and talents."

The Bishop, who was appointed a year ago, called on

ministers to investigate the needs of the country and, within limits, adopt a positive immigration policy. "We need a policy that sets out the needs of the country and how these can be met by people willing to adapt to life here," he said.

Canada, the United States and Australia had adopted policies that limited immigration but ensured that people with new ideas and new skills were allowed in, he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

The term 'economic migrant' has become almost a term of abuse. Many of the people who come here for economic reasons are very highly motivated and have a positive impact on the economy.

However, there could be no return to a policy of open-door immigration, he said, and those who wished to enter must be prepared to live in British society.

The Bishop highlighted a study that said immigration restrictions deprived British



Nazir-Ali: ideas wanted

businesses of professional and managerial skills. The report, *Strangers and Citizens*, said: "The Government's negative attitude to immigration has sold the country short."

"It has failed to reap the economic benefits from selective skilled migrations, forgone the investment and jobs which entrepreneurs could provide and prevented com-

panies from benefiting from inter-company transfers."

The report, published by the left-wing think-tank Institute for Public Policy Research, said changes in immigration policy could bring economic benefits in the form of skilled labour and an inflow of investors and entrepreneurs from overseas. One argument in support of a less restrictive immigration policy was that immigrants created jobs rather than filled them. It suggested a more selective immigration policy that would take greater account of the needs of the economy.

"It would see positive economic potential in many of the persons who apply to enter as refugees and it would switch from a philosophy of excluding potential migrants to 'protect' the status quo, to a system of positive selection of those immigrants with most to contribute to Britain," the report said.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2



The Princess of Wales aboard a boat in Venice yesterday after visiting the Biennale modern art show, where her attention was captured by an exhibit with kicking robotic legs. The Princess ended her two-day official visit to the city in the afternoon

Teacher cleared in ballet trip row

By BEN PRESTON

A LESBIAN head teacher was cleared yesterday of turning down a ballet trip for her pupils because *Romeo and Juliet* was about heterosexual love.

A panel of governors also rejected claims of impropriety surrounding the appointment of Jane Brown as head teacher of Kingsmead Primary School in Hackney, east London. She shares a home with the woman who was chairman of the governors at the time of her appointment.

The governors' inquiry report recommends that no further action be taken against Ms Brown, 37.

Hackney council, which had previously questioned the impartiality of the inquiry, said yesterday that it was waiting for a copy of the report before commenting.

Claims that Ms Brown had turned down the offer of free tickets to the Royal Opera House because the performance was "too heterosexual" caused a furore last year and were raised in the Commons.

Why I gave up the Services for life as a servant

George Austin

FORTY years ago, on Sunday June 5, 1955, I was ordained deacon in Blackburn Cathedral. It was not how I had planned my life. In 1949, after National Service, I had intended to sign on for a permanent career in the RAF. The priesthood had been a nagging call in the background, but I had thought I would make a better pilot than parson. It was not to be a medical condition that gave me no trouble before it was discovered and has given none since was enough to gain me a discharge.

The MO who signed my papers asked what I would do instead. When I mentioned the priesthood, his anxious face betrayed the fear that there must be some undetected psychological condition as well as the physical. In secular terms he was probably right to be concerned. Here before him was a moderately bright young man, with the possibility of a well-paid career carrying reasonable promotion prospects.

Fifteen years later I became vicar of my first parish with a stipend equivalent today to £9,000 a year. It was hardly enough to live on, even with the free house, and without a working wife it would have been hard. After our son was born it was very hard, and hand-outs from friends and occasionally from the bishop helped to make ends meet. But the priesthood is not about money, nor indeed about much that the world holds dear. Perhaps it is here that the nature of priesthood carries with it a message for a wider society, that we were created for a purpose which may possibly be centred on how much wealth we can amass, or on how successful we can be in climbing a ladder of ambition; that service to the community is a more valuable

contribution than power and status.

Servants, service, served: in speaking of the priesthood it is impossible to move far from those words. The Pope rightly rejoices in the title of *servus servorum Dei*, for he, no less than the most humble minister, is meant to be a servant of the servants of God. I could not pretend that I have lived to the ideal of priesthood, but I can say that it was an ideal which was drummed into me all those years ago at my seminary—that we were to be servants not rulers; that we were priests who served for 24 hours a day, not for a 40-hour week; that we were never to seek promotion or preferment, but if it came, it came only for greater service; that we would often be most successful when we might believe we had failed; and always that we remember we served one who chose to die on a cross rather than bow to cheap popularity.

And when God calls his priests, He never suggests it is going to be easy. The priest will meet his times of darkness, will travel through his own valley of death's shadow, only to discover at the other end that, as always, the Shepherd had been with him. There will be occasions when he will come face to face with evil or temptation; and he will look back and realise that he had come through his time of trial in another's strength rather than his own. But service is at the heart of it all.

It has not always been the easiest of lives, but I make no complaint. Now, 40 years on, I can truly say that I would have wished for no other life for, alongside a happy marriage and loving family, it has brought total fulfilment.

The Ven George Austin is Archdeacon of York



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مكتبة الشارقة

Greenpeace cleans up as North Sea ministers bicker

FROM NICK NUTTALL
IN ESSEX

A MINISTERIAL conference charged with cleaning up the North Sea ended yesterday with a string of small wins for conservation and wildlife, and a resounding victory for the publicity machine of environmental campaigners.

Throughout the conference in Denmark, groups such as Greenpeace managed to force up the political agenda what was due to be a minor issue, the dumping of oil installations. It triggered fierce exchanges between the conference nations, all of which except Switzerland border the North Sea. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was involved in attacks on several other nations, particularly Denmark and its Environment Minister, Svend Auken.

Greenpeace found a rich vein in exploiting personal differences between the two men. Mr Auken accused Britain of environmental vandalism over the dumping of the obsolete Brent Spar oil platform. Mr Gummer retaliated yesterday by accusing the Danes of "raping the North Sea" through its uncontrolled sand-reef fishery.

Belgium, France, Sweden, The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark put forward a resolution calling for oil and gas platforms to be disposed of



Gummer: accused Danes

on land. Mr Gummer accused them of lacking the political will to tackle the real threat facing the North Sea, which he said was overfishing.

The conference failed to agree on tougher fish quotas, regulation of sand-reef fishing or a number of other fish conservation measures. They agreed only that European fisheries and environment ministers would meet next year in Norway.

Mr Gummer accused the Danish Government of being "in the pocket" of its substantial fishing industry. "We feel our fishermen quite rightly complain about getting a bad deal, and yet we are not protecting stocks for the present generation, let alone the next." He also turned his

fire on Greenpeace and claimed that it refused to fight the fishing issue because "you can't raise money from slithery creatures like fish". He accused other nations of bowing to Greenpeace's publicity machine. "Other countries do not believe the Brent Spar is a hazard but they are worried about the public concern in their own countries."

Norway, which has supported Britain's position of treating the disposal of oil platforms case by case, said later that it would dispose of its first big platform, North East Frigg, on land.

The arguments overshadowed several important decisions, such as the agreement to declare all the North Sea, and the Atlantic approaches to Britain, a special area. Shipping will be required to burn clean fuels and end the discharge of oily wastes, chemicals and rubbish.

The conference also agreed to phase out discharges of hazardous wastes such as heavy metals. However, Britain stood alone in saying that it would not back the plan and instead pledged to reduce discharges rather than halt them.

Britain was also isolated in opposing a plan to declare the sea a protected area from nutrient discharges, mainly via agricultural run-off and sewage.

Leading article, page 19



Darnbrook Farm, bought from the Moores family with £600,000 of lottery money

Lottery cash goes to pools magnates

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ALMOST £600,000 from the National Lottery has been used to help to buy a farm owned by the family that runs the Littlewoods pools empire.

Yesterday Richard Turner, agent for the company's chairman, John Moores, acknowledged "a gentle irony" in the Moores family receiving money from something that has severely dented pools betting.

The grant, made via the National Heritage Memorial Fund, enabled the National Trust to pay £790,000 for Darnbrook Farm, which borders Malham Tarn near Settle in North Yorkshire. Its 2,894 acres, mostly on Pennine limestone, adjoin almost 4,500 acres already controlled by the trust.

Part of the area is within the Malham site of special scientific interest, which is being considered under European Union directives for designation as a Special Area for Conservation. Known as the Craven Limestone Complex, its moorland areas are noted for their bird population, including upland waders such as golden plover, curlew and dunlin. The area also contains rare plant species such as bird's eye primrose and haneberry.

The Moores have run the farm for more than 20 years, rearing Aberdeen Angus cattle from their pedigree herd at the farm where they live in Formby, Merseyside.

Maxwell trial QC collapses in court

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Maxwell fraud trial at the Old Bailey was adjourned yesterday after a barrister collapsed while cross-examining a witness.

Proceedings were only an hour old when Michael Hill, QC, defending the former Maxwell group executive Larry Trachtenberg, slumped into his seat after telling the judge: "I'm sorry, this is simply not going to work."

He had been cross-examining Trevor Cook, pensions administrator to the Maxwell publishing empire. Mr Justice Phillips told the jury: "Mr Hill was not feeling well when we started this morning. He valiantly did his best to carry on. But he is simply unable to continue."

The trial will resume on Tuesday. A spokeswoman at Mr Hill's chambers said later that he was recovering at home and expected to resume duties next week.

Mr Hill was asking Mr Cook about £22 million of pension fund shares in the Israeli company Teva Pharmaceutical Industries. Mr Cook, 45, denied that he had known for months that the shares were with brokers and no longer in the safe keeping of Israeli lawyers.

Mr Hill asked Mr Cook whether he was expecting criticism in a forthcoming report by the Trade Department on Mirror Group Newspapers. He replied: "I feel there may be, yes."

Navy promises to guard tuna boats

BY MICHAEL HORSNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN warned Spain yesterday that all necessary action would be taken to protect British boats fishing for tuna in the Atlantic against harassment by Spanish vessels.

The first Cornish boats are expected to sail from Newlyn towards the end of next week. By the end of the month up to a dozen are expected to have joined the fleet fishing for albacore tuna 500 miles south-west of Land's End.

William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, said: "It is unacceptable that UK vessels should be prevented from legitimate fishing as a result of harassment or damage by other vessels. We shall be doing all that we can to ensure that they are not."

He added: "We shall ensure that there is a Royal Naval presence in the tuna fishery from the outset. The fishery protection presence is to perform the dual role of ensuring

that there is no question of the rules being broken and of taking the necessary action to prevent harassment of our people."

Last summer, Royal Navy fisheries protection vessels arrived on the scene too late to prevent the nets of several British trawlers from being damaged by Spanish boats, and then added insult to injury in the eyes of the fishermen by confiscating the nets of one of the British skippers for being too long.

Captain Christopher Morrison, who commands the Royal Navy's fisheries protection fleet of six patrol boats and three minesweepers, said yesterday: "On the high seas we have no power to board a Spanish or any other foreign vessel. But if our trawlers keep us informed of their whereabouts, we can make sure we are in the right place at the right time."

THE TIMES

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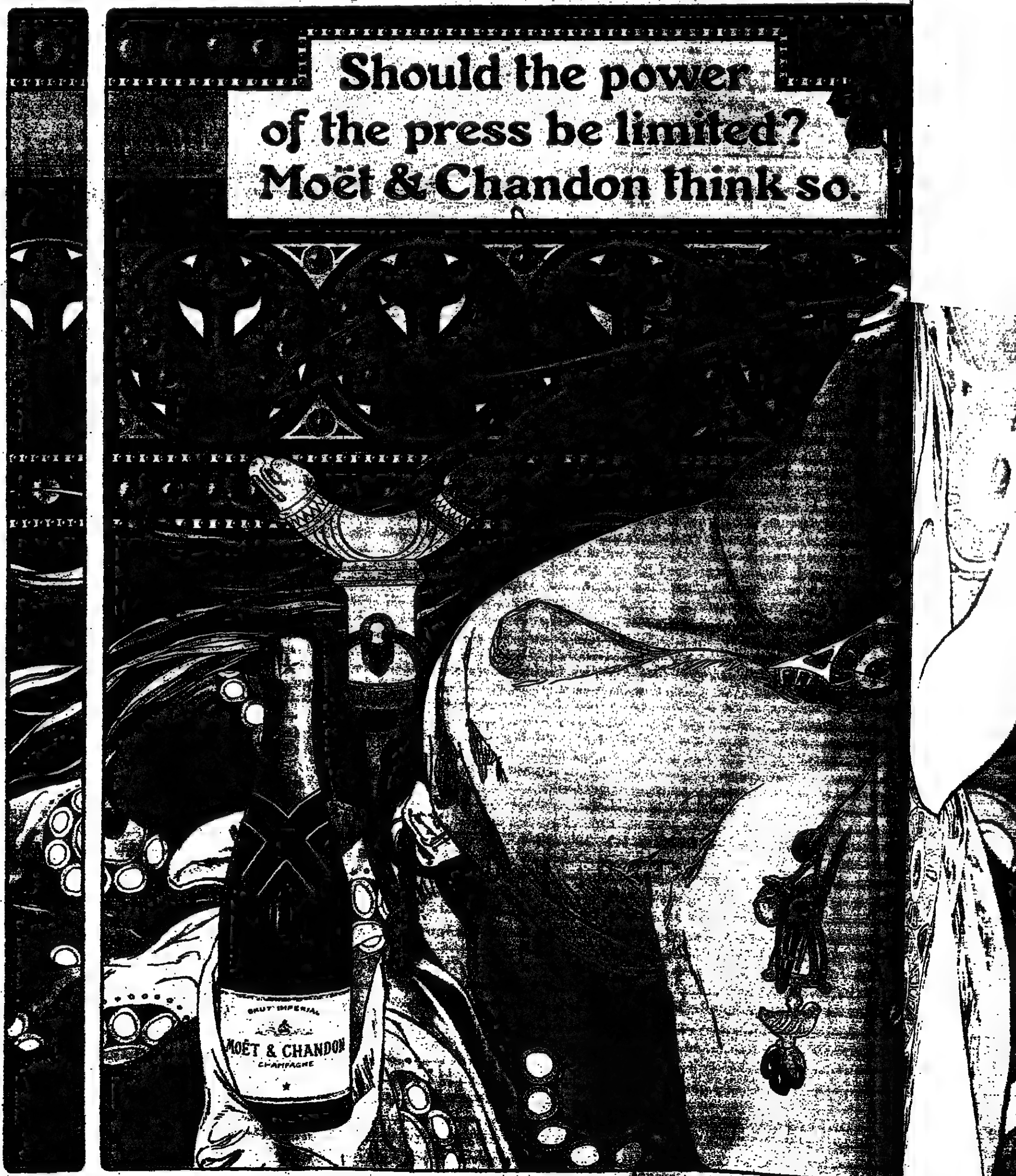
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مكتبة النظم

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 10 1995

Time running out for the endangered Amur leopard and Siberian tiger in the wild east of Russia

Poachers seal rare cats' fate

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN KEDROVAYA PAD

BENEATH the dense green canopy of this forest game reserve, the final chapter in a tragic conflict is taking place as the last great cats of Russia's Far East fight a losing battle against human encroachment and greed.

The Amur leopard and the Siberian tiger, which once roamed the rugged hills and forests of this wilderness, are only years away from extinction, victims of rampant poaching, over-development and indifference. "We occasionally get a signal from a tagged leopard or see their tracks in the forest, but it is becoming more and more rare to have any contact with them," said Sasha Zayev, a ranger at this reserve, the last 70 square miles of protected habitat for the magnificent but elusive spotted cat.

There are only between 20 and 40 of the animals left in the wild, and the park estimates that it loses between four and seven of the rare felines every year.

There are plans for setting up new reserves and experimenting in breeding leopards from the wild with those raised in zoos," Mr Zayev said. "But we do not have any time left. The leopard's future looks bleak." The Siberian tiger,

the world's largest cat, is slightly better off since its population is estimated at 200 in Russia's Far East, after it was hunted almost to extinction in neighbouring Korea and China. However, the 9ft-long animal, which can weigh up to 500lb, is also more sought after than the leopard, since it is worth an estimated £6,250 on the black market for its skin and its body parts, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Since Russia opened its borders in the Far East, trading in the endangered species has become a lucrative business, alongside gun-running, drugs trafficking and smuggling. The tiger suffered another setback this month when one of the six game reserves in the Russian Far East was devastated by a fire.

Sergeant Aleksei Shavronsky, a policeman who patrols the border areas with China, admitted that the authorities were too overstretched dealing with smuggling and illegal immigration to have any time for poachers. "I have lived here all my life, and it breaks my heart to think that when my children grow up they will not see these majestic animals in the wild," he said. Al-

though many wildlife experts believe that the battle is already lost to save the leopard, and that time is running out for the tiger, efforts are finally being made by Russian and Western environmentalists to save the animals.

The World Wide Fund for Nature is helping to finance an anti-poaching operation that sends trackers into the forest regions to confiscate traps, harass poachers and prod the authorities into action.

Since they began their work the trackers have discovered 164 violations, confiscated 44 guns and recovered 14 tiger skins, which they then destroyed. However, the operation has failed to win a single conviction against alleged poachers, who in some cases work in co-operation with the local mafia and the authorities. "People are going through a difficult time at the moment, so the problems of a few tigers and leopards are not going to concern them," said Vladimir Shchetinin, who heads the anti-poaching operations centered in Vladivostok. "I am afraid that in 30 years we will have forgotten all about the tiger, and in a decade the leopard will already be a distant memory."



The Siberian tiger, the world's largest cat, of which only 200 remain



The majestic Amur leopard, whose future is threatened by poachers

New drug barons open floodgates in East Europe

BY ROGER BOYES

THEY are the new men of the East, shadowy pony-tailed drug barons with such underworld nicknames as Glasseye, the Boxer and Salamander. From the capitals of Central and Eastern Europe they are embarking on huge operations to smuggle cocaine, heroin and other hard drugs into the European Union.

The Colombian drug cartels, says Jurgen Storbeck, the Europol drugs unit co-ordinator, have not abandoned their traditional routes through Spain or the harbours of Rotterdam, Hamburg and Antwerp, and major airports. But they have been re-routing cocaine and heroin shipments through Eastern Europe. "The Balkan route, the classic supply route for heroin deliveries to Western Europe, has shifted north and east and now runs partly through Ukraine, Russia and Poland," Herr Storbeck said.

Even more disturbing is the tendency for the drug barons to set up independent laboratories in post-communist countries. This is sometimes a joint venture with South American gangs, but most of the criminal enterprise is home-made.

Poland has become the third largest producer of amphetamines in Europe, accounting for between 15 and 20 per cent. Hungarian drug laboratories last year produced large quantities of amphetamine derivatives, and a large factory for producing them was recently discovered in Riga.

"There is a specially dangerous situation in the former Soviet Union," said Herr Storbeck, whose unit monitors European drug flows. "Large quantities of opium, cannabis and ephedrine are being cultivated in Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Russia, and there is an

increasing trend to refine these products there."

Western anti-drug units are trying to tip off the East Europeans whenever it is feasible. A few days ago Poles, acting on information from the West, found large water-tight bags full of Colombian cocaine strapped to the keel of a Greek freighter docked in Gdansk. The haul had a street value of more than £20 million.

Earlier in May the Poles found nine tonnes of Nigerian hashish under a cargo of herrings. A big heroin shipment hidden in a lorry was also intercepted last month on the Slovak-Hungarian border.

Throughout the region drug trafficking is on the increase. Romanians last year seized more than twice as much heroin as in 1993; Hungarian drug seizures have trebled since 1990. That may partly be due to increased vigilance and better co-ordination with the West, but it mainly reflects the volume of drugs now passing from East to West.

Organised crime, not just the drug-dealing gangs, is also exploiting the relatively porous new borders in Central Europe. Even with the tighter external controls imposed after the Schengen agreement this spring, customs services are no match for the cross-border smugglers grouped into regional "mafias".

For the West this is a classic border policing problem; a question of swapping intelligence on drug gangs as quickly as possible, tracking suspects across frontiers, plugging the gap. It is here that the Schengen Information System and Europol in The Hague can help, but the police want more, and both the British, police and the FBI have become involved in training post-communist police agents.

Berlusconi showgirls woo TV reform voters

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE campaign for Italy's referendum on television power ended last night after Silvio Berlusconi's flagship Canale Cinque channel staged a variety show with popular stars to persuade voters not to deprive him of two of his three stations.

If Signor Berlusconi loses the vote tomorrow on whether to reform the existing Mammì Law he is likely to lose the leadership of his conservative Freedom Alliance, which fared poorly in regional elections in March and April.

If voters decide against obliging him to sell, President Scalfaro will come under pressure from the mogul's Forza Italia party to hold an autumn general election to

replace the technocratic Government of Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister.

La Cinque ignored left-wing critics and broadcast a two-and-a-half-hour gala show last night entitled *La Grande Avventura* (The Great Adventure) "to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the foundation of private television", with sea, sky and showgirls and variety stars such as Mike Bongiorno, Alberto Castagna and Iva Zanicchi.

Magistrates in Naples disclosed that Signor Berlusconi's brother Paolo was under investigation over alleged cocaine smuggling between Brazil and Italy involving entertainment personalities and sports stars.

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Patten yields to China on appeal court delay

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA and Britain announced yesterday they had reached agreement to set up a supreme court for Hong Kong only after the colony's handover in 1997.

The accord, delaying establishment of the Court of Final Appeal which will replace the Privy Council in London until after China re-assumes sovereignty, came after lengthy talks and marked a concession by the British.

Chris Patten, the Governor, conceded at an extraordinary and packed session of the Legislative Council, the colony's 60-member parliament, that the agreement to set up the Court of Final Appeal before 1997, but only a few days ago, Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, insisted that the court must be set up after the takeover and from then on Mr Patten began

saying, rather wistfully, that before 1997 "would have been better". The Governor said this was the best deal the colony could get if it wanted a legal system similar to the current one, where final appeals extend to the Privy Council, which hears about 12 Hong Kong cases annually.

The choice was simple, he said: do a deal with China, or set up a unilateral court that Peking would tear down the day it resumed power. Council members knew the Chinese have already pledged to do exactly that to the present



Patten: new Bill facing widespread opposition

constitutional structure, based on a wide franchise, which is Mr Patten's pride and joy.

He also acknowledged that Britain had agreed that China's murky definition of "Acts of State", which in British common law applies only to foreign matters such as declarations of war, could well limit the powers of the court under China's Basic Law, effective from July 1, 1997.

British officials conceded that this could include anything perceived as challenging state power, such as a high official dismissed for political reasons who chose to go to court. Peking can deny this right under the legislation which Britain has now agreed. "Their motivation is to get their hands on the levers of power," one senior official observed.

The Government was expected to gazette the Bill establishing the court, the first step in the legislative process, last night. An unlikely combination of council members has sworn to oppose the Bill. The Liberals, normally pro-Peking, favoured a pre-1997 court, and their leader, Allen Lee, said "never" when asked if he would vote for the

measure. He will be joined by Martin Lee, QC, leader of the Democrats, whom Peking terms a counter-revolutionary for his condemnation of the Tiananmen Square killings in 1989 and his calls for much wider democracy than Mr Patten's policies permit.

The agreement, Martin Lee declared, was in Britain's, not Hong Kong's, interest. It was "a common law with Chinese characteristics". After the session, in an attack on Mr Patten as bitter as any from Peking, he said: "Britain long ago stripped the Hong Kong people of their birthright of citizenship. Now it appears that Britain is deliberately robbing us of the only means we had left of protecting ourselves and our rights."

Peking Organisers of an international women's conference have agreed to a Chinese proposal to switch the venue of the meeting in September to a half-built township an hour's drive from Peking. The Chinese had feared that human rights and lesbian groups might stage protests in Tiananmen Square if the sessions were held in the capital.

Leading article, page 19

Blacks on sidelines of rugby euphoria

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

TOUTED as a vehicle of reconciliation for the new South Africa, the Rugby World Cup has been greeted by blacks here with emotions ranging from unbridled enthusiasm to indifference.

Taking the lead of President Mandela, many blacks have come out in support of the South African rugby side which has adopted the slogan "one team, one country". Television pictures have shown blacks cheering on the white national side and waving flags of the new South Africa.

Given that just over a year ago those same people would have probably supported any team playing against South Africa, it is rightly seen as an encouraging development. Mr Mandela has admitted that he started backing the Springboks only in 1993 because the game was seen as

the white man's sport and associated with apartheid. However, the vast majority of blacks have been unable to afford match tickets, resulting in half-full stadiums and virtually all-white crowds.

Benny Alexander, who because of his "colonial overtones" recently changed his name to Xhobisa XI, an outspoken Pan Africanist Congress MP for Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria, said there is still a long way to go before the image of rugby is significantly altered in South Africa and the World Cup has done little to move that forward. "Black people have been outpriced from taking part in the rugby spectacle," he said. "It has raised some interest in the townships but there is a lot of hard work to be done."

Mr Alexander said that the racial undertones associated with rugby are still strong. He cited a recent game between

schoolboys in Alberton, near Johannesburg, which is being investigated by the Transvaal Rugby Football Union over a brawl when the losing white team assaulted their Coloured opponents.

However, the World Cup has generated funds which will be ploughed back into rugby development in the townships and there is a base from which to work. The return of Chester Williams, the only black player in the South African side, for the quarter-final match today should help to stir that interest.

Jan Matseba, 40, a petrol pump attendant, who said that he had always supported visiting teams in the past, declared: "I support the Boks. The players may be white, but they are still South Africans."

Quarter-final previews, pages 38 and 39
Rob Andrew, page 44

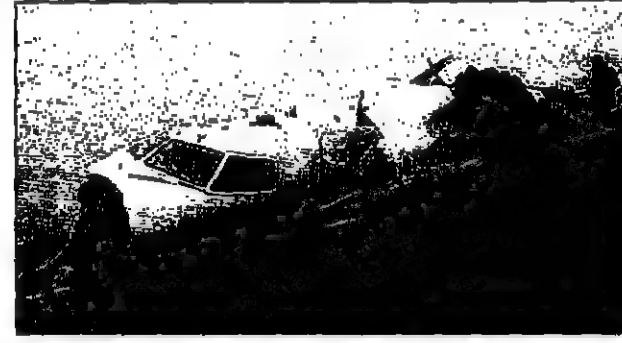
A rescue worker carries a girl who was in the crashed New Zealand plane, below

Cellphone calls in rescuers

FROM REUTER IN WELLINGTON

THREE people were killed in a New Zealand plane crash yesterday, but 18 were rescued by helicopter after a survivor raised the alarm using his mobile telephone.

The De Havilland Dash 8 belonging to Ansett New Zealand, was flying from Auckland when it crashed in thick cloud near Palmerston North in southern North Island. A police spokesman said the plane caught fire on impact



but the blaze was contained. Eighteen people, most with chest, limb and head injuries, were taken to hospital in a rescue involving four helicopters and one ambulance.

Five people were badly hurt one with serious burns. A three-year-old had a broken leg and an infant and a girl aged six were unhurt. Poor

access and visibility hampered attempts to reach the scene in sparsely populated farmland. A National Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokesman said the passenger who called on his cellphone "was reasonably accurate with his position... he gave us the first report concerning the number of people on board".

Assad is invited to Israel by Rabin

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT ASSAD of Syria, previously regarded as one of the most uncompromising of Middle East leaders, is now prepared to reach a peace deal with Israel, according to President Mubarak of Egypt, his closest ally in the Arab world.

The announcement by the Egyptian leader was delivered yesterday after a three-way summit here with Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Warren Christopher, the United States Secretary of State. The disclosure reinforced the new mood of US-fuelled optimism surrounding the peace process.

Mr Christopher triumphantly claimed that events had "turned a new page" in the recently soured ties between Israel and Egypt. Mr Rabin appeared on Cable News Network's *Larry King Live* programme and invited President Assad to visit Jerusalem for bilateral talks, evoking memories of the 1977 trip by President Sadat of Egypt that transformed political hostilities in the region.

Although President Assad is unlikely to accept Mr Rabin's invitation at the current stage of negotiations, he has ordered the Syrian media to adopt a soft line towards Israel.

"I think President Assad is very serious about reaching a peace agreement," Mr Mubarak said in Cairo's al-Itihad-ya Palace. "I think this time President Assad is much more relaxed, much more willing to go through the process... maybe because of some feeling that there is a good response from the Israeli side. I hope that something will be concluded."

The sudden improvement in Israeli-Syrian exchanges has convinced diplomats that, despite the denials, reports about secret talks in Europe are true. Fares Assad, a nephew of President Assad, has been mentioned as a go-between. One US source said a key factor has been Israel's willingness to pull out completely from the Golan Heights.

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Fearless chic advocate of Euro-federalism makes her mark among men in crumpled suits

Guigou's icy glamour chills her opponents

SPECTATORS at last weekend's bash in Sicily on the future of the European Union were offered a nice study in styles. At one extreme there was David Davis, the pugnacious Foreign Office minister. After laying down an uncompromising British line, Mr Davis looked as if he had been in a fight, his tie askew and collar awry. By contrast there was Elisabeth Guigou, the former French minister, who strolled from the meeting room into the sunlight exuding the icy glamour that has thrown many an unwary interlocutor off his stride.

Mme Guigou, 48, who served as France's frontline negotiator for Maastricht, is now one of two MEPs appointed to the "reflection group" of ministers and officials that is laying the groundwork for the treaty's review. Her performance at the inaugural outing has reminded Union-phobes that this Jolie blonde à la séduction froide, as a recent book calls her, is a formidable weapon for the federalist camp and advocate for the Euro-parliament. Since winning,

PARIS FILE
by CHARLES BREMNER



a seat last year, Mme Guigou, a top technocrat who was born into a modest family in colonial Morocco, has imposed herself as a force in Strasbourg. A one-time attaché at the French Embassy in London, she argued her case in English before the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in April and famously hung up on Teresa Gorman in a joint telephone interview on the *World at One*.

Her withering hauteur and steel-trap mind, often compared to that of Britain's Iron Lady, is all the more potent in the male-dominated corridors of Euro-power because it comes in a provocative package. "When she used to walk in to chair meetings, it was like a stun-grenade going off," remembers a colleague from her first days in the Government of Edith Cresson five years ago. The former

Prime Minister used then to refer to her fearsome junior minister as "my Barbie Doll". Though nearing 50 and the mother of a 15-year-old son, Mme Guigou is not above the occasional flout, such as posing this spring for a glamour portrait by Helmut Newton, published by *Paris Match*.

One's mind, however, lingers not on such frivolity when required to match wits with France's former Madame Europe, even if the setting is as heady as the garden of a Sicilian palace. In an hour's chat which elicited barely a smile, she made clear her disdain for the obstructive behaviour of John Major's Government and all others who oppose her goal of Euro-federation. The Union might as well give up right now, she said, if it was going to accept Britain's solitary resistance to majority voting.

She is also sceptical about the proclaimed Euro-enthusiasm of President Chirac. She believes that Jacques Delors, whom she served as a monetary expert when he was Finance Minister in the early 1980s, would have won the presidency for the Socialists had he decided to run. However, the woman once known as the Euro-Jean of Arc, does concede some self-criticism. The attempt to revamp the Union will fail, she says, if every move is not explained to a disenchanted public. "We must tackle things head-on this time. We have to avoid the errors we made before Maastricht when debate was muffled until it was all wrapped up."



Elisabeth Guigou: a stunning mix of Iron Lady disdain and Barbie Doll allure

Anti-green agent tells of dilemma

IT IS ten years since the French secret service sank the Greenpeace *Rainbow Warrior* in Auckland harbour, killing a photographer and rocking the Government. Now, reopening the old wound, the woman officer who helped to carry out the operation has just published her own damning account of the fiasco.

Major Dominique Prieur, now 46, was the first woman in the Service Action of the DGSE, the French intelligence service, when she was sent with a colleague to New Zealand, both posing as Swiss tourists. Though never questioning their orders, the team had had feelings from the outset. "We were surprised by the brutality of an action directed against a movement that was supposed to be inoffensive," she says.

The agents also objected to the "overkill" of the decision to plant two mines on the vessel. Poorly prepared, the operation turned to farce when police arrested "M et Mme Turenge" as they tried to drive away in an easily identifiable camping van.

To their chagrin, the DGSE's "Swiss" passports were swiftly confirmed as forgeries. More incredibly, the French police gave the New Zealanders the true identities of the officers. Several other agents did, however, manage to get out of New Zealand undetected, she reveals. Mme Prieur spent a year in prison and two on a remote Pacific atoll before being allowed home. Now at the Defence Ministry, she says she remains loyal to "La Maison", as the DGSE is known, but she pours out her bitterness towards the politicians of the Mitterrand Government who lied and let down her team.

To test is to be. Discuss ...

Nearly 700,000 teenagers sat down in unison across the country yesterday to tackle the philosophy test that kicks off the Baccalauréat exams, the equivalent of A levels.

This gruelling ritual, which is compulsory for all pupils, offers a glimpse of the rigours of the Gallic

schooling system. Here, to try out at home, is a sample of the topics on offer for the four-hour essay: Is passion without illusion possible? ... Can everything be justified? ... Can one compare the history of humanity to the history of mankind? ... Can one be indifferent to the truth?

Bosnia tops menu for Chirac dinner with EU leaders

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE agony of Bosnia-Herzegovina was expected last night to weigh heavily at the Elysée Palace, where President Chirac was dining with the 14 other leaders of the European Union to pave the way for their summit in Cannes at the end of this month.

M Chirac, who took office three weeks ago, called the meeting to energise the last weeks of France's six-month presidency of the Union, virtually paralysed since February by the electoral campaign. "We want to wind up the presidency by leading Europe forwards," said a presidential aide who was helping to prepare the Gaullist leader for his first taste of Euro-summitry.

In his last term in high office, as Prime Minister in the mid-1980s, M Chirac was forced to take a back seat to President Mitterrand, then Socialist head of state, in international affairs. France hands over the presidency to Spain on July 1. Since assuming the

presidency, M Chirac has thrown himself into diplomacy, making his presence felt through countless telephone calls to fellow leaders.

Though John Major, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and the other government chiefs were to test the common ground on EU financial affairs and the review of the Maastricht treaty, the main topic last night was likely to be the drive for credibility in the peace effort in former Yugoslavia.

They were expected to agree on the appointment of Carl Bildt, the former Swedish Prime Minister, to replace Lord Owen as their new mediator. Mr Bildt, who will work with Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations mediator, and a former Norwegian Foreign Minister, should also negotiate on behalf of the five-nation Contact Group, tying Russia and the United States to the EU, French officials said.

The leaders are also expected to give their blessing to the creation of the Rapid Reaction Force, set up under the Franco-British military partnership to give some muscle to the beleaguered UN peacekeeping force. French and British officials see the new "brotherhood in arms" as one of the few positive products of the Balkan conflict.

The Franco-British partnership on Bosnia is helping to soften the perennial differences between the two nations on Europe. Mr Major, who is due to hold a separate session with M Chirac this morning, is keen to gauge the new President's thinking on the future shape of the Union. British optimism over M Chirac's like-mindedness on matters of national sovereignty has been somewhat dulled by the fervour with which the French leader has espoused the drive for monetary union and deeper European integration since taking office.

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Carter ready and waiting for call to deliver Bosnia from throes of war



Carter: driven by faith and a sense of duty

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN ATLANTA

EVERYBODY still calls him Mr President. Today, though, Jimmy Carter presides over an empire of good works. It accords him status as a senior citizen of the world who still commands attention, as he showed this week with his latest intervention in the Bosnia crisis.

At a moment when he says US policy is confused and wavering, he has agreed to appear for the first time since leaving office before a Senate hearing. He called on America and other Contact Group nations to bring the warring factions together for negotiations. He said he would not intrude as a peacebroker,

but would return to Bosnia if everyone agreed he should.

It is more than 14 years since Mr Carter was bundled into involuntary retirement by Ronald Reagan. The pain of defeat has long departed and he has become the first American in history to use the White House as a stepping-stone to a higher moral plane. His wife Rosalynn remembers the moment vividly. "One night Jimmy sat straight up in bed. I'd never seen him do that. He normally sleeps so well that I thought he must be ill. Then he said, 'I've got it. What we need is somewhere to resolve conflicts'."

With such a place, he said, there would have been no need for him to take Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat to Camp David for days of talks that produced the first peace accord between Egypt and Israel.

Thus it was that the Carter Centre, his presidential library, assumed the mission of going in search of peace. The low building sits on the hill from where General Sherman watched a terrible civil war episode, the burning of Atlanta.

Mr Carter has retired arguments large and small and has taught others the science and art of reaching agreement. He has monitored elections in the name of fair play and not hesitated to expose corruption, as in Panama when

General Manuel Noriega hijacked the ballots. In the last year, the pace has accelerated. He persuaded the dying dictator, Kim Il Sung, to yield his stubborn pride and to bring North Korea into nuclear talks with America. In Haiti, he led the team which convinced Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras that dictatorship was a losing game. In Bosnia last December, he listened to Serbs and Muslims and emerged with a four-month ceasefire. In March, almost unnoticed, he achieved a two-month ceasefire in the 40-year civil war in Sudan.

How does he do it? Listening is important, he says, allowing those who feel beleaguered to blow off steam and explain why they are

misunderstood, no matter how defensible they are. Then comes the flash of steel behind Mr Carter's grin. Twice in the past year he has threatened to walk out when aggrieved parties have refused to budge. Once with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and the second time with Sudan's rulers. In both cases, they realised that crossing Mr Carter would only worsen their reputations.

At the White House and the State Department, some regard Mr Carter as a mercurial ally, meddlesome even. His triumphs leave the Administration looking leader-footed.

Mr Carter's life now can be seen as an odyssey to redeem the failures of his presidency. Certainly he has

learnt how to trade on his former office, but he says his Christian faith and a sense of duty drive him.

Fighting disease and malnutrition in the Third World is the centre's day-to-day role. So is helping poor black neighbourhoods on their doorstep in Atlanta where both Mr and Mrs Carter walk the streets. In two weeks' time, the Carters will be in the Watts district of Los Angeles, sleeves rolled up, helping to build a house for a poor family.

For relaxation, they retreat to the tiny township of Plains, Georgia, and the home where they lived when he was an unknown peanut farmer. He still teaches at the Sunday school and takes his turn cleaning the churchyard.

Rescued pilot thanks God and the Marines

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

REUNION

SCOTT O'GRADY, the American pilot plucked from Bosnian Serb territory after six days on the run, enjoyed a jubilant reunion with his squadron in Italy yesterday, but his rescue proved only a momentary tonic for President Clinton whose Bosnia policy came under withering fire in Washington.

American television first broadcast live pictures from the Aviano air base in Italy of a grateful Captain O'Grady thanking God and the Marines for his escape, then switched to Harris Silajdzic, Bosnia's Prime Minister, standing in the White House drive after an hour-long meeting with Vice-President Gore and denouncing the Administration's refusal to lift the UN arms embargo against his Government.

Mr Silajdzic called the embargo an "instrument of genocide" that denied his people the right to defend themselves, and his evident passion seemed certain to reinforce a rapidly growing consensus in Congress that it is time for a radical change in policy.

On Thursday night the House voted 318 to 99 to end the embargo, unilaterally if necessary, in what amounted to a stunning vote of no confidence in the Administration's handling of the Bosnian crisis. The vote also marked the first time the House has asserted the two-thirds majority required to override a certain presidential veto. Rob-

ert Dole is threatening to introduce a similar measure in the Senate where, with few exceptions, Republicans and Democrats are united in their belief that the UN peace mission in Bosnia has irrevocably failed and should be withdrawn.

The return of Bosnia to the front pages is also taking its toll on Mr Clinton's popularity, with a Wall Street Journal-NBC poll yesterday showing his approval rating dropping back to 46 per cent after a brief boost from his handling of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Captain O'Grady was flown to Aviano in a US Government jet after 24 hours of rest and debriefing on the USS Kearsarge, the amphibious assault ship from which Thursday's dramatic rescue mission was launched. He

was greeted by a crowd of more than 1,000 whooping, cheering airmen and their families, a celebratory flyover with loop-the-loops by four planes from his 555 Fighter Squadron, champagne, a huge cake and the sound of Neil Diamond's *Come To America* blasting from loudspeakers.

Clean-shaven and looking remarkably fit after six days of living on "bugs, grass and rainwater", the 29-year-old pilot wiped away tears as he said the real heroes were the Marines who flew deep into Bosnian Serb territory to rescue him. "They say they were just doing their jobs, but they came in there, they risked their lives," he said.

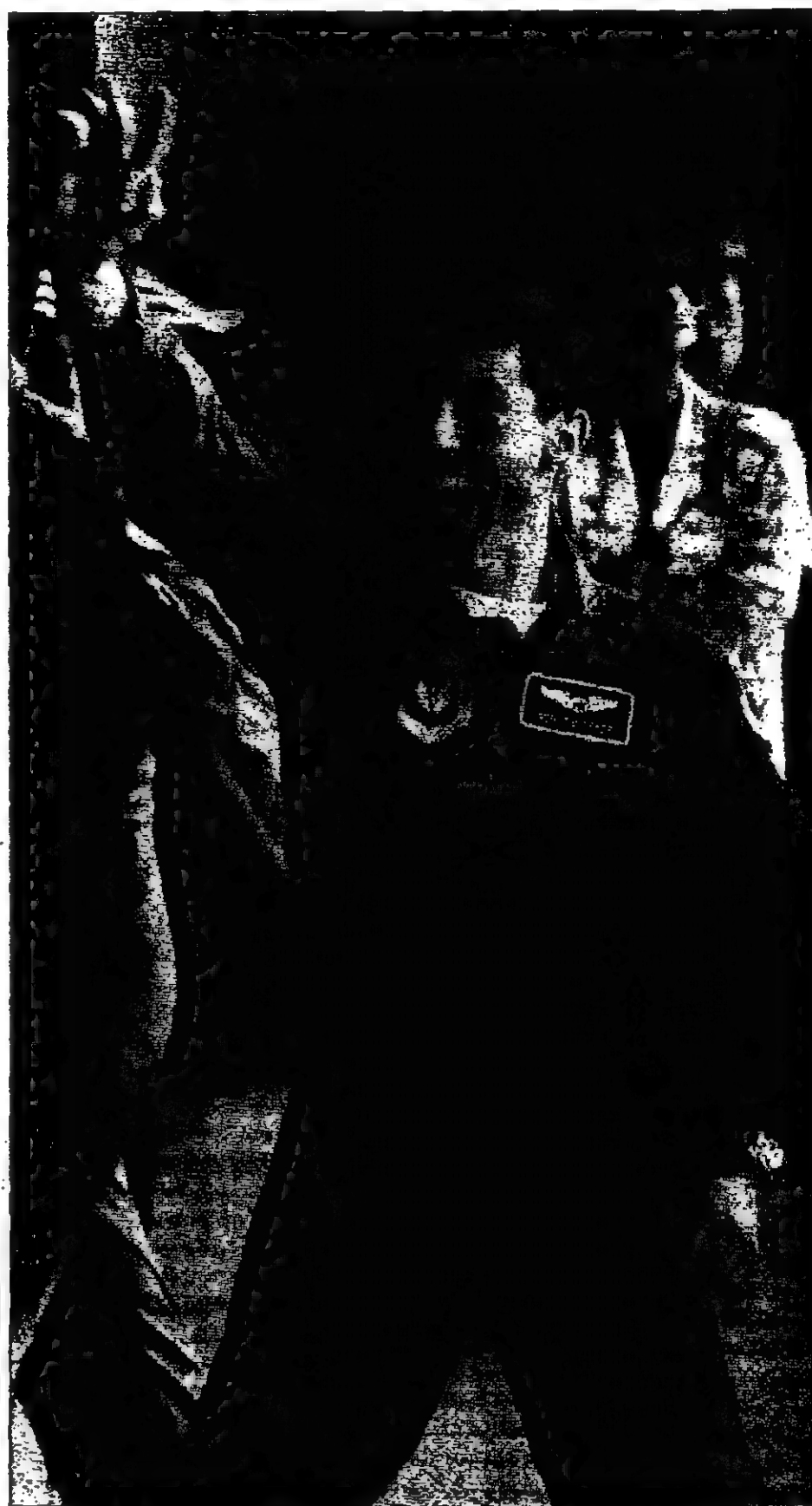
Captain O'Grady, who will return to America for a few weeks with his family, said he was sustained by his religious faith and the certainty everything possible was being done

to find him, but said little else about his ordeal. Military and Administration officials said he had ejected after his F16 was destroyed by a Bosnian Serb missile and lay face down in undergrowth as Serb forces combed the sparsely populated area of wooded hills, sometimes passing within a few feet of him.

For the next six days he hid by day and moved by night, sending radio signals sparingly to save the batteries, in what experts said was a perfect demonstration of how to survive in hostile territory.

He had a survival kit containing two radios, a gun, flares, mirror, first-aid kit, compass, whistle, water and camouflage equipment. He also had a special "evasion chart", a 3ft by 5ft map of northwestern Bosnia made of tough, lightweight, waterproof material usable for catching rainwater or for shelter and containing a list of local edible plants. Most importantly, he had the will to survive.

General Michael Ryan, commander of Nato air forces in southern Europe, said he believed Captain O'Grady flew into a deliberate trap last Friday because Bosnian Serbs had not previously had surface-to-air missiles in the area. The F16's destruction redoubled congressional opposition to Mr Clinton's proposal to use American ground troops to help UN peacekeepers retreat to safer positions.



Captain Scott O'Grady greets his comrades at Aviano air base in Italy yesterday

Krajina Serbs hit back with airstrike

FROM REUTER
IN BELGRADE

WARPLANES of rebel Serbs in Croatia yesterday bombed Croatian army positions on Mount Dinara, from where Krajina villages had been shelled.

Advancing steadily in recent weeks, Zagreb's army has captured strategically vital high ground on Mount Dinara, threatening to sever Krajina's supply routes and shell Knin, the rebel "capital".

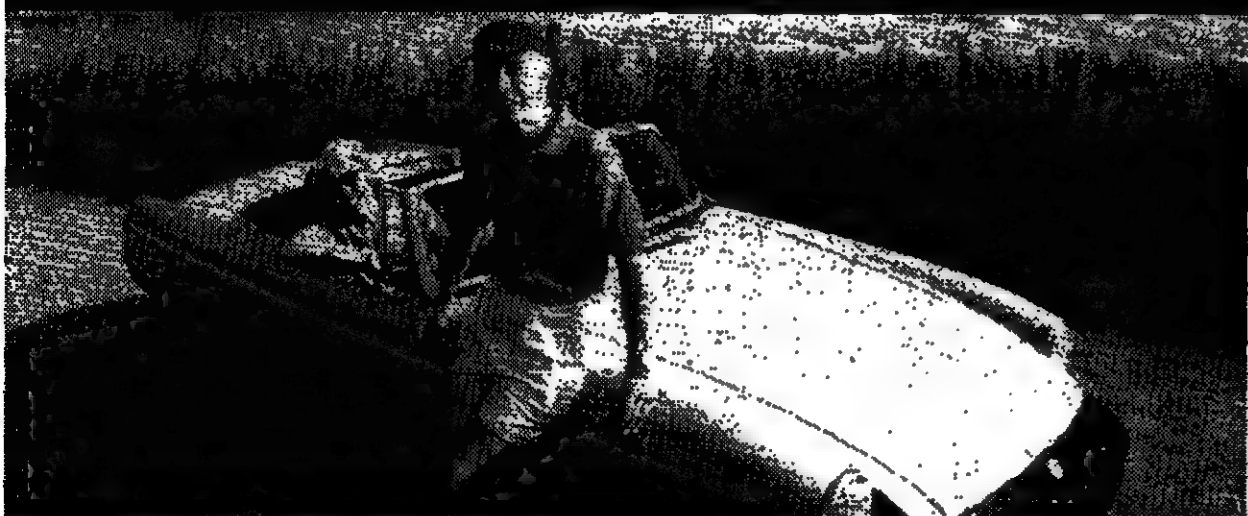
The latest fighting came as President Tudjman threatened to engage in a war to make the best of the breakaway territory unless the Serbs rejoined Croatia by the expiry of a UN peace mission at the end of October. He spoke a month after his army reconquered one of three rebel enclaves in the first big setback for Serbs who seized wide tracts of Croatia in a 1991 revolt against its secession

from Yugoslavia. Croatian forces are squeezing the core of the Serb entity in mountainous inland from the Adriatic Sea by advancing along its eastern flank inside Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr Tudjman said Croatia would keep pursuing negotiations to "integrate" the Krajina Serb domain peacefully under the umbrella of the UN mission. However, Croatia would attack if the Serbs did not renounce their rebellion and pursuit of union with separatist Serbs in Bosnia.

Croatian troops attacked after Milan Martić, the ultra-nationalist Krajina Serb "president", renewed on an economic accord with Croatia negotiated by Borislav Mikelic, the region's moderate "prime minister". Mr Martić has since deposed Mr Mikelic and refused any further talks with Zagreb unless it hands back Western Slavonia.

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Major presses UN over brigade

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR yesterday increased the pressure on the United Nations to approve the deployment of 5,000 more British soldiers for Bosnia when he declared that 24 Airmobile Brigade was ready to start deploying.

The Cabinet has now given its backing to sending the brigade, which will be the biggest deployment of British forces since the Gulf War. The Prime Minister confirmed that he had "pressed the button" to send the extra soldiers, raising troop levels to nearly 10,000 in Bosnia, in a speech to the Welsh Conservatives' conference in Llangollen. Britain has been

irritated at the slowness of the UN in approving the new Rapid Reaction Force. The Government decided to send the reinforcements, including a first phase of 1,200 soldiers who are already in Bosnia, nearly two weeks ago. The UN Security Council has yet to approve the extra troops.

The Cabinet's decision at its meeting on Thursday was accompanied by orders to British commanders that their role in Bosnia is strictly limited to peacekeeping. Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday that there was no question of the UN being asked to "fight its way" through to Sarajevo. Mr Major also told the Welsh Tories: "British troops are not there to fight a war."

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 10 1995

Whitewater lawyer reviews death of Clinton confidant

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR, the Whitewater special prosecutor, has asked Henry Lee, a renowned forensic scientist from Connecticut, to review the 1993 death of Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel and Arkansas friend of the Clintons.

Mr Foster was the Clintons' personal lawyer before moving to Washington, and was heavily involved in the Whitewater case. His body was found in a suburban Virginia park but, despite two investigations that concluded he killed himself, questions are being asked about how and where he died.

The appointment of Mr Lee, who is also involved in the murder trial of O. J. Simpson, suggests Mr Starr may also have developed doubts after months of inquiry.

Mr Starr's investigation of events in Arkansas during the 1980s is gathering pace and again threatening to ensnare Mr Clinton. A day after the grand jury indictment of Guy Tucker, the Governor of Arkansas, another of Mr Clinton's Little Rock associates has pleaded guilty to charges brought by Mr Starr and agreed to co-operate with his investigation.

Stephen Smith, a senior aide of Mr Clinton during his early years as Governor, admitted dipping into the same pot of government-backed loans for the poor that Mr Tucker is accused of defrauding.

That pot was a Small Business Administration programme administered by a former judge named David



Tucker is accused of lying to obtain loan

Hale and his company, Capital Management Services. Investigators believe it was used as a "piggy bank" by the Arkansas political elite — "that's just the way business is done in Arkansas", Mr Hale told one interviewer. Mr Hale, who is co-operating with Mr Starr, in return for reduced charges, claims Mr Clinton also pressed him to make a large illegal loan from the programme.

Mr Tucker, only the tenth sitting Governor this century to be indicted, is accused with a business partner of lying to obtain a \$300,000 (£189,000) loan for their personal use. Mr Smith, now a communications professor at Arkansas University, admitted illegally obtaining a \$65,000 loan to pay off a debt incurred by his Kings River property company.

Mr Hale has accused Mr Clinton of putting pressure on him to make a \$300,000 loan to Susan McDougal, wife of James McDougal, the Clintons' partner in the Whitewater Development Corporation. Mr Clinton has called Mr Hale's allegation "bull" but the loan was made, never repaid, and \$100,000 of it went to Whitewater. The charges against Mr Tucker and Mr Smith are based largely on information provided by Mr Hale, who is under government protection.

Mr Smith's partners in the Kings River company were Mr Tucker and Mr McDougal. Mr Smith was also president of the small Bank of Kingston owned by Mr McDougal that made a questionable \$30,000 loan to Hillary Clinton to build a model home on Whitewater's land.

Mr McDougal also owned the now-bankrupt Madison Guaranty Bank. The central allegation of the Whitewater affair is that Madison funds were illegally funnelled to Mr Clinton's campaigns in return for regulatory favours that stalled its foreclosure.



Raymond Del Puerto salvages pots and pans from his home in Pampa, west Texas, after a tornado hit a 45-block area of the town of about 20,000 yesterday, wrecking dozens of houses, demolishing a warehouse, overturning a 18-wheel lorry and injuring at least five people, including a woman in intensive care whose oxygen machine failed when power was lost. Electricity and telephone services were disrupted. (AP)

Black Sea Fleet deal

Moscow: Presidents Yeltsin and Kuchma signed an agreement yesterday on the division of the Black Sea Fleet which had soured ties between Russia and Ukraine for nearly four years (Richard Beeston writes). Moscow will receive 81 per cent of the 300-ship force.

Poll for Nepal

Kathmandu: Man Mohan Adhikari, the leader of Nepal's six-month-old minority communist Government, has asked King Birendra to dissolve parliament for another election. (Reuters)

Navy returns

Wellington: The first British warship to visit New Zealand for 12 years, HMS Monmouth, came into harbour after the Royal Navy removed nuclear weapons banned by the Government.

Whipping ban

Johannesburg: The South African Constitutional Court has outlawed the whipping of juvenile offenders. In 1991, 38,324 youths aged 17 to 21 were sentenced in court to have corporal punishment.

Fugitive financier arrested in Cuba

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE fugitive financier Robert Vesco has been arrested in Cuba after more than two decades on the run and may soon be returned to America to face an array of charges, including swindling \$224 million (£141 million) from investors and making illegal contributions to former President Nixon's campaign fund.

Mr Vesco had been living in Cuba since the early 1980s, and his arrest by the communist regime not only marks the end of a criminal saga but may signal a new warmth in relations between Havana and Washington.

US officials said his arrest appears to have come about because his relationship with President Castro had recently "turned difficult".

Mr Vesco's arrest may be a bid by Dr Castro to improve relations with Washington and encourage the Clinton Administration to ease the economic embargo on Cuba, officials in Washington said. Mr Vesco, 59, fled from the US in 1973.

Allegations take shine off Mrs Congeniality

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

BARBARA RICCI was so friendly and jolly that her fellow contestants in the Mrs New York State 1995 beauty pageant last week had no hesitation in crowning her Mrs Congeniality.

The question of her congeniality, however, has been thrown into serious doubt by accusations that she once punched a policeman in the neck and is awaiting a second trial on charges of attempting to run over a neighbour's 11-year-old daughter. The revelations have outraged the pageant's organisers, who take "family values" very seriously. The incident is made still more embarrassing since Mrs Ricci, 37, was also awarded the Mrs Civic Minded title.

"In the time she spent with us she was very co-operative and congenial and just an angel to be with," Sheila Stussberg, executive director of the pageant, told The New York Times. "We've never had anybody with congeniality so thoroughly."

The beleaguered Mrs Congeniality/Civic Minded insists that she has been slandered by an envious neighbour over the alleged attempt to run down her little girl. As for the incident with the policeman, which happened in 1993, "he tried to trip me," she maintains. "He did it two times. I slapped him in the face. Any woman would have done the same in that situation."



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Socialism collapsed under its own weight, but Robert Skidelsky warns of turbulence ahead for the free world

In the early 1960s most political leaders believed in things which Friedrich Hayek said would put us firmly on the "road to serfdom". We were obsessed with the twin problems of Britain's "slow rate of economic growth" and "social inequality" and he believed these could be overcome only by means of vigorous governmental action. Growth as well as incomes needed to be "planned"; higher growth, as well as higher taxes, would pay for a massive expansion in the "social wage": public investment in hospitals, schools, universities, motorways would "gear up" the economy; firms and industries "falling behind" would be nationalised.

1960s-style socialism — for this is what it was — was largely bipartisan. Macmillan's Conservative Government had set up a skeletal planning system in the early 1960s, and Reginald Maudling's "dash for growth" had followed. We were democrats, and so we spoke of "democratic planning". Our model was France's "National Plan", but the deeper inspiration was Soviet planning. In 1961 Khrushchev had told the West "We will bury you". Both President Kennedy and Macmillan believed him; so did Harold Wilson, himself an admirer of the Soviet planning system. So "democratic planning" would be the West's answer to "Soviet planning".

Thus was set in train the disastrous sequence of events which by the late 1970s had brought most

Western societies to their moment of choice: either to make Government control over economic life effective or to shrink the State and restore the market system. Rising "stagflation", slowing growth, the "fiscal crisis of the State", mounting disorder in industrial relations were combining to make the political economy of the day unworkable. It was as though Western economies were being invaded by a host of opportunistic infections all stemming from a single virus — collectivism.

Few of us realised that Hayek had predicted this outcome in his *Road to Serfdom* (1944). Hayek denied that democratic planning could be a stable halfway house between totalitarian planning and the market system. First, there would never be enough voluntary consent for the "targets" of the central plan. So the planners would constantly need to restrict the area of freedom. A good example of this in the 1970s was the move from "voluntary" to "statutory" incomes policy. Secondly, partial planning, by impeding the working of the market system, creates problems which, to the planner, appear soluble only by more complete and detailed planning. Hayek also implicitly predicted the eventual demise of Soviet central planning. Because central planning was bound to be irrational, the State's investments (the main source of its revenue) would turn out to be unprofitable. In the West, and also

How can the West survive the next crisis of capitalism?

in Latin America, the accumulation of losses in state-owned industries was the catalyst for the "privatisations" of the 1980s. In the Communist world, where the state owned the whole economy, the unprofitability of State investments brought down the Communist system itself.

The capitalist system literally invented its way out of the collectivist trap. In politics it produced two super entrepreneurs, Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, who restated the ideology of freedom, and enlarged the area of the politically possible. The East Asian "tigers", which continued to grow at phenomenal rates while Europe and the United States stagnated, demonstrated what could be achieved by lightly regulated capitalist economies. Finally, economic life was spontaneously deregulating itself through what Schumpeter called "creative destruction".

Its agent was the microchip, first commercialised in Silicon Valley, California. The microcomputer was the antidote to the collectivist virus. It triggered the breakup of the huge top-heavy corporate structures developed in the era of "Fordist" mass production, the deregulation of financial markets, and the creation of today's "global economy". Collectivism became unworkable because what was to be controlled had become invisible, disaggregated, or beyond the reach of national governments.

Communism lacked a similar capacity to reinvent itself. The "command economy", as its name implies, depended on coercion. Once coercion as removed from the picture — this was Gorbachev's essential contribution — the system simply fell to pieces. The satellite leaders of Eastern Europe made deals with the dissi-

dents to save their necks and the Soviet Union itself broke up. The restoration of capitalism became the only way to save central authority itself.

The term "transition economy" is used to describe this movement from Communism to post-Communism. But our own economic life is also in transition, from collectivism to liberalism. What would a successful outcome look like? And what do we need to do to secure one? Three issues may be identified. First, we need to secure the conditions for sustainable free trade. This means reducing unemployment and dampening down the business cycle. Heavy unemployment — such as we have today in Western Europe — is the seedbed of Protectionism. We have learnt that once heavy unemployment develops, a proportion of those out of work become unemployable — they do not return to work when the

economy recovers. The ratio of long-term to total unemployment in Western Europe has risen steadily through boom and slump and is now about 40 per cent of the total.

There are many useful things we can do to lower the "natural rate" of unemployment, ranging from labour and product market deregulation to active supply side policy like training. Equally important though is stabilisation policy — to prevent or offset large shocks to demand or supply. The pervasive sense of insecurity created by the swings between inflation and recession and the accelerated downsizing, outsourcing and flattening of firms is as much a danger to free trade as actual unemployment. Keynesian stabilisation policy still has a part to play in preserving economic freedom, even though the pseudo-Keynesian finance practised extensively in the free world in the 1970s was part of the disease.

Secondly, we must prevent collectivism from creeping up on us unawares, as it did before. The British Government still spends more than 40 per cent of the national income in continental Europe it is 10 per cent higher. These ratios are not just too large to be "honestly" financed, but they enmesh a dependency and entitlement culture which rots the sense of individual responsibility. All political parties should commit themselves to a medium-term fiscal strategy for reducing the share of public spending in GDP to nearer

30 per cent. This would require a rise in the proportion of health-care and education financed from private sources, mostly from tax cuts. It would also require the support of a new kind of public philosophy which challenges the State's right to regulate the lives of free and responsible people.

Finally, we must escape from the Cold War attitude of regarding Eastern Europe and Russia as "outside" Europe. This does not mean simply extending the European Union and Nato eastwards; but seriously asking whether these Cold War structures, which provided valuable public goods for part of Europe in the past may not, in their present form, be serious impediments to the reintegration of the lost lands in a new European-wide economic and security system.

The transition to post-collectivism will undoubtedly be turbulent, domestically as well as internationally. Many of the essential steps have yet to be taken, particularly in Western Europe. We need to develop clear, long-term aims, and navigate well in the storm.

Lord Skidelsky is professor of political economy at Warwick University and chairman of the Social Market Foundation. His book *The World After Communism: A Polemic for our Times* is published by Macmillan on June 23.

A debate on Robert Skidelsky's new book will be held on June 27; coupon details, page 5

Curtains for the Barbican

The RSC's retreat from London is a disaster, says Benedict Nightingale

Back in 1958, when the embryonic Royal Shakespeare Company was visiting Leningrad, its young director-designate went to his chairman's room and talked to him through the night. If the RSC was to compete with the National Theatre for the best actors, didn't it need a strong London branch as well as its Stratford headquarters? So argued Peter Hall to Fordham Flower, and Flower ended up agreeing to spend all the company's reserves on the expansion that occurred in 1960.

It was a bold decision, strongly opposed by vested interests in and outside the company. Yet it transformed not only the RSC but London theatre itself. Before long the capital's visitors and residents could be sure of seeing finely performed Shakespeare, as well as other classic and modern plays, all year round. When the Barbican was finished in 1982, it was only logical the RSC would move there.

Indeed, its two component theatres were actually designed for the company and to its specifications. But what Hall and Flower lovingly created may now be conscientiously demolished by their successors. The RSC will keep one foot in Stratford, but from 1997 onwards London will get barely half a sole. The company will spend only the winter months at the Barbican, and put its energies and manpower into touring the country and adding two more "residencies" in undecided cities to the month-long one it already undertakes in Newcastle.

Adrian Noble, whose plan this is, would doubtless take issue with anyone who suggested that the RSC risks losing soul as well as sole. The artistic director is, he believes, spreading the word to underprivileged gentiles beyond our spoiled Jerusalem. But the danger may be deeper than he wishes to think. A company's soul is its actors — and will the best really be willing to revert to a gipsy life. What chance of another Lear from Paul Scofield if the price is months on rail and road?

Though Noble claims that more touring will make the RSC "the true national theatre in terms of access", the winner will be the National Theatre proper, which will find more good actors more often around. Meanwhile, the RSC will

be well-meaningly rendering itself marginal. This will strike some who live in the regions as a maddeningly metropolitan view. A few may even be willing to trade excellence for availability, among them an Arts Council committed to touring as a cheap way of keeping buildings humming. But this is Britain, not America. All roads lead to London, and none take long getting there. Suppose you live in Birmingham or Leicester. Is it easier to catch the RSC in London or Newcastle? London — or Plymouth, Glasgow?

A plan meant to increase access to the company's work may end by reducing it; and that's only for the British. Most foreign visitors may as well say goodbye to the RSC, for most come here between April and October, when the RSC will be out of town. The capital will be losing a major cultural asset. The company claims the Department of Heritage is content. If so, it is a disgrace.

Another disgrace is the supine reaction of the City of London. It has rescued the RSC from financial disaster. It recently doubled its grant to the company to £3.6 million. It has improved backstage facilities and, you might think, done everything reasonable to help a troupe that has continually professed itself happy at the Barbican. It has been rewarded with ingratitude verging on betrayal — and what is the response of Bernard Harty, the hapless chap the City recently appointed managing director of the Barbican Centre? To promise to "explore to the full the exciting opportunities now offered to us" by the RSC's absence.

That is almost sadder than thanking the Luftwaffe for giving the City exciting opportunities to use the holes it left. The drama, dance, and music Harty hopes will fill "our two acclaimed stages" for six months a year will prove more elusive than new offices.

In 1990 financial pressures forced the RSC to close for four months, and we were all expected to be sorry. Now idealism doing much more of the same, and we are asked to be glad. The whole business smacks of shallow thinking and botch-up. Is it too late for a rethink? Let's hope not.

Our floating pleasure palaces

What is the appeal of piers? And why do so many towns neglect these seaside jewels?

Last week Southend pier burnt for the third time since the war. The thing is cursed. I went there in 1976 after fire number two and gazed at the contorted girders of the old pavilion a mile out to sea. Shortly afterwards another fire gutted the landward end and a ship sailed clean through its centre section. Yet with each disaster the city fathers of Southend doggedly set to and rebuild whatever is destroyed. They have the dedication of oriental priests restoring wooden temples. Their pier is, after all, the one jewel of Southend.

A pier in flames is peculiarly sad. Piers are architectural amphibians. They are designed to appear to float, yet they do not sink. They are neither harbours nor marinas, neither docks nor pleasure boats. Other countries do not have piers, only Britain, as if we were straining to escape the prison of the shore and strike across the sea in search of new lands to conquer. There are still 46 definable pleasure piers left, plus some stumps. All are vulnerable to rot, fire and storm. The finest, Brighton West Pier, still stands derelict. Clevedon in Somerset was saved only by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Not a year passes without a pier falling victim to fire or collapse through storm.

Yet their appeal persists. The pier sits offshore at every British seaside resort, a fretwork palace of pleasure defying both the British climate and landlocked delights. Southend pier is chiefly remarkable for being the longest pier "in the universe". You can walk its mile length, but this is so boring that the miniature train is the customary means of reaching the end. The Thames estuary is not blessed with natural features, nor is the Essex coast especially diverting. My 1976 visit was with John Bejman. Although crippled, he refused any wheelchair and braved the wind and rain the whole way to the end to inspect the damage. He then went on a tour of inspection of Southend's chapels and boarding-

houses. He would accost passers-by with the question, "Don't you feel privileged to be living amid the architectural marvels of Southend?" They looked at him in blank amazement. It was, I think, his last architectural expedition, and perhaps a little mischievous. But the dejected elders of Southend, mortified at their one treasure being yet again a blackened ruin, were greatly boosted by his visit.

Bejman understood the magic of piers. "Heavens of fresh air and freedom from anxiety," he called them. We step on to a pier, he said, as into a fantasy. A pier is a ship without seasickness, a mild adventure. When I lived briefly in Brighton, its West Pier was still open, restored as the set for the film *Oh! What a Lovely War*. It was a wonderland of pavilions and bridges, decks and secret corners. The West Pier was a place for quiet thoughts, secret trysts, sadness and escape, an architecture of intimacy as well as of enjoyment. The pier today, broken by storm and decay, padlocked and chained, is a scar on the face of Brighton and a damnation on the town's notorious meanness.

The British pier owed its genesis to the need to bring customers to the seaside spas of the Regency without dumping them on a scrubby and dangerous beach. The earliest

Simon Jenkins

was at Ryde on the Isle of Wight. Brighton followed in 1822, then Herne Bay, Southend and Margate. Only gradually did piers develop as places of promenade and pleasure alone. Here Great Yarmouth and Southport compete for the title of "first", both in 1860. Ryde's local handbook replied with its own boast: "a more delightful scene can scarcely be conceived than this pier affords when the placid brightness of a summer's moon rests upon it, a combination of motion and stillness."

There followed a commercial boom in pier building. Fourteen were designed by the dandy of pier masters, Eugenius Birch, including Brighton West, Eastbourne, Hastings, Scarborough, Blackpool and Alburytown. He did not build Clevedon in the Bristol Channel, Bejman's favourite, "as delicate as a Japanese print in the mist and like an insect in the sunlight". Cyril Bainbridge, historian of the British

pier, has counted 89 built between 1814 and 1910. Of the roughly 50 still standing, many are dreadfully wounded.

All were business enterprises. Southport charged 6d to walk on the pier and a shilling for a sedan or wheelchair, a high price for a Victorian visitor. Most piers declared handsome dividends, so much so that Brighton built two piers and Blackpool three. For some reason they never caught on abroad. I believe the only continental piers were at Blankenberge in Belgium and Trouville in France, both intended to attract Britons. There are piers too at Atlantic City.

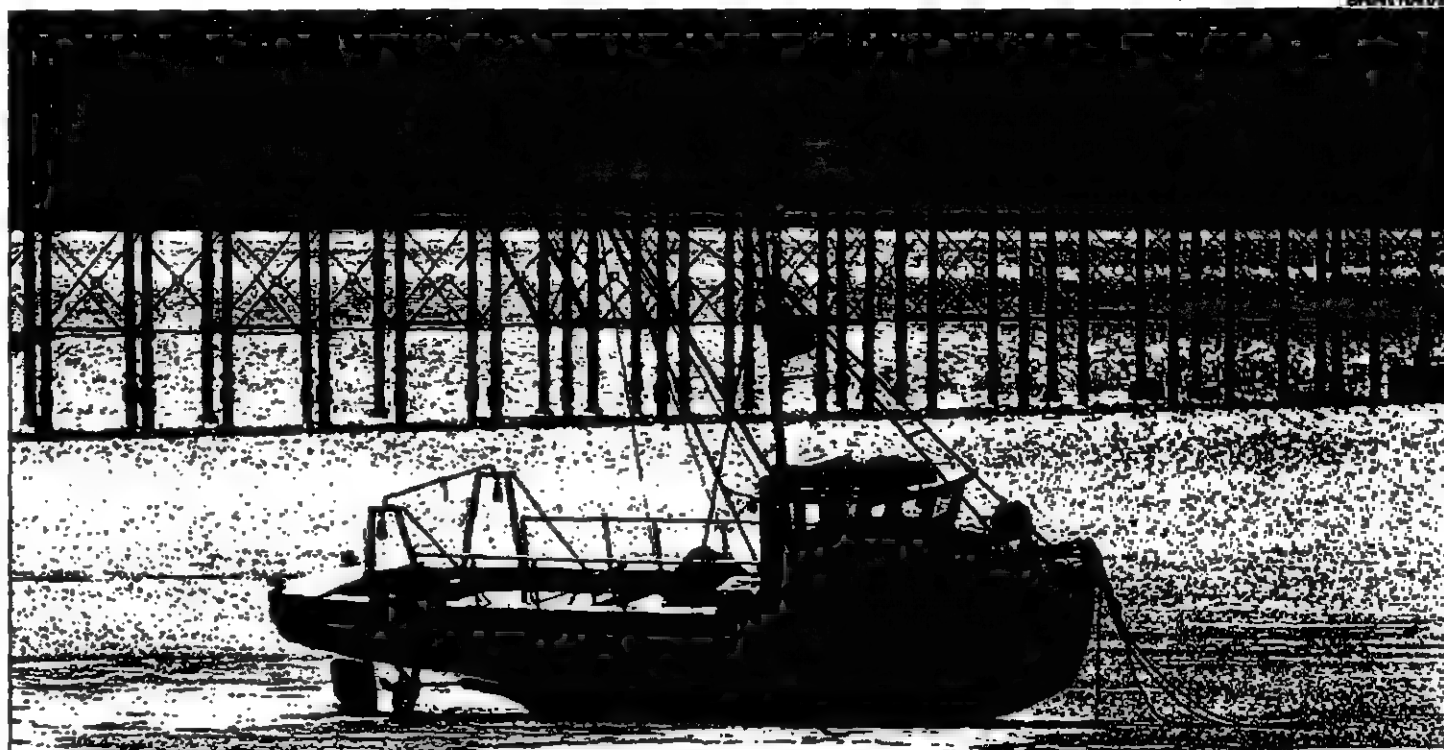
Perhaps because of their antiquity and location, piers have come to seem the acceptable face of seaside tat. Bainbridge refers to them as "turbulent and colourful, gaily contrasting with grim, sad battles against economic, social and meteorological elements". They were home to the petty gambling of the slot machine, What the Butler Saw, the clairvoyants, roller-coasters, rude postcards, candyfloss and suicides. They reflected the British love of the picturesque, of coastal vistas and sea view.

To the middle classes, they were safe working-class entertainment. Any sign of trouble and the police

could seal the entrance. The piers at Blackpool and Brighton have been many a British politician's one consolation with the alien culture of the populace. I recall a noted Chief Whip reeling back from an encounter with Les Dawson on Blackpool pier during a dull session at a party conference. To Dawson, the piers were "music hall with salt". It was Dawson in Blackpool, I believe, who produced the shortest comic short story: "Wife's run off with the neighbour. (Pause) I miss 'im." He would certainly have used the pierhead perennials: "That's not a tan you've got, that's rust."

Millions of pounds have gone into saving such seaside monuments as the piers at Clevedon, Bangor and Southend. Yet most have suffered in the canon of architecture by their association with downmarket leisure, and with seaside resorts that are largely unknown territory to the denizens of Westminster and Whitehall. What is shocking is that Brighton's West Pier, the only pier to be listed as a Grade One historic building, should still be derelict. Like its other Grade One sister in sorrow, St Pancras Station, it is a blot on the escutcheon of Britain's respect for its past.

Time was when the burghers of that town would have shamed themselves into action.



City fathers rebuild Southend's architectural amphibian each time disaster strikes. This week the pier burnt for the third time since the war

Rambling on

RAMBLERS LOCKED in a long-running feud with the Queen have been cheered by victory in a similar tussle with her eldest son. The Prince of Wales's decision to allow walkers to tramp over a section of his Thames-side land in London is encouraging them to step up their campaign for access to a riverside path at Windsor.

The Ramblers' Association castigated Her Majesty for refusing to open up the Thames path at Windsor Great Park which was closed by Queen Victoria.

Now Prince Charles, who as Duke of Cornwall owns a stretch of path in sight of the Houses of Parliament close to Vauxhall Bridge, has torn down a 12ft wall and a fence to allow public access. M16 has also relented to allow access to the adjoining Thames-side path in front of its new HQ.

"With Prince Charles and M16 throwing their stretches of riverside path open to the public, we are now calling on the Queen to relent her decision to continue the century-old ban on the riverside path at

Windsor," says the association's feisty chairman, Kate Ashbrook. Tomorrow, a group of ramblers bearing binoculars can be spotted outside the superspies' HQ.

● Crafty tactics by Gavin Hastings and his Scottish squad in Pretoria. Late at night, they sneaked into the Harlequins' ground to practise on



the special scrim machine imported by New Zealand. Watch out for forceful scrummaging when the two teams meet tomorrow.

Spare cash

ON A RARE excursion to the opera, Tony Blair chose a significantly political piece warning of the perils of inflation. To make the point, fake dollar bills rained down on the audience, including the Blairs. Labour's heritage spokesman Chris Smith, and former Arts Minister Lord Gower, at the first night on Thursday of the English National Opera's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*.

Although the Labour leader and his wife Cherie were in a box, a few greenbacks fluttered their way.

Locked out

UGLY SCENES were witnessed late on Thursday night outside the Dorchester Club in London's Park Lane when hundreds of black-tied and be-sequined partygoers found themselves barred. Sir Robin Day hammered furiously on the door of Dai Llew-



lyn's nightclub before heading for the nearby Hilton in disgust. Ivana Trump, her fiancé Riccardo Mazzucchelli, and a Baring or two were also locked out. All had paid up to £125 a head to dance at the Dorchester in the final flourish of the "Night of 100 Dinners", a celebrity-strewn evening in aid of the Italian gallery Accademia Italiana. "The whole thing is a nightmare," wailed Llewellyn who bore the brunt of the crowd's fury.

Safety seat

A BATTLE between young Turks is further lowering the tone of the Tory benches. Edward Garnier, QC, MP for Harborough, has for-

mally applied for the seat of Rutland and Melton occupied by the up-and-coming Alan Duncan.

Garnier tipped as a future Attorney-General, is twitchy about his own seat, which becomes more marginal with boundary changes. After scanning the Bosworth seat of disgraced MP David Tredinnick, Garnier challenged Duncan for very safe Rutland. Party chiefs, Jeremy Hanley and Dame Angela Rumbold apparently spoke to Garnier about his hostile action which has offended older members. Senior MP Bob Dunn commented: "Boundary changes create a jittery atmosphere. But for fellow colleagues to behave in this way is very unusual to say the least."

Hair-raising

JOHN Humphrys, stalwart and controversial co-presenter of the BBC's *Today* programme, is currently alarming guests with his new hairdo. On the air yesterday a less-than-kind sports commentator compared it to the coiffure of footballer Paul "Gazza" Gascoigne.

Humphrys dismisses the comparison. "Gazza has dyed his hair blond. My hair colour is entirely



Marmaduke Hussey and Lady Susan: lively weekends

natural and due to age," he says. James Naughtie comments: "John is lucky because he has lots of hair... I have to keep mine very short to make it look fuller."

Neighbourly

WEEKENDS on the Waldegrave Somerset estate should be even livelier from now on. When William Waldegrave repairs bruised and shaken to the family seat, his neighbours will include his elder

brother, James, who recently inherited the earldom, and his sister, Lady Susan, one of the Queen's Ladies-in-Waiting.

And, of course, accompanying Lady Susan to their family cottage on the estate will be her husband, Marmaduke Hussey, Chairman of governors at the BBC, which leaked the draft report containing Sir Richard Scott's damning criticism of the Minister.

P.H.S



NORTH AND DIRTY

Why Germany, not Britain, is the chief sea villain

The row between John Gummer and other environment ministers at the Fourth International Conference on the North Sea has been used by environmental campaigners as evidence that Britain is still the dirty man of Europe, the main polluter of the North Sea and the obstacle to tougher measures to restrict the release of chemicals, fertilisers, oil waste and rubbish which is causing such devastation to marine life. This impression, casting Britain so conveniently again as the villain, is crass and misleading.

The charges let off the hook those continental nations, particularly Germany, that trumpet their environmental ideals while their rivers discharge thousands of tons of pollution into the sea. The Elbe, carrying all the effluents of Bohemia and former East Germany, is still disproportionately polluting, despite Bonn's 1990 commitment, along with the other eight conference participants, to the halving of discharges by this year.

Mr Gummer can look after himself. He bears no scars from last year's name-calling by a Norwegian minister, and yesterday hit back at Denmark's destruction of sand eel stocks which it grinds up for animal feed. He was on less sure ground in defending the dumping of the Brent Spar oil platform: concern about the accumulation of toxic waste in the bases of rigs is widespread, though Greenpeace has exploited the platform's capitalist image to exaggerate the dangers. Dumping must be considered case by case. But of the 400 North Sea oil rigs, only a few could, by general consent, be dumped.

Mr Gummer was most vulnerable however in refusing to agree a blanket ban on the discharge of nitrates from agricultural run-

offs and sewage. Certainly, as he argued, the use and run-off of fertilisers has to be properly monitored; and unrealistic targets will simply be ignored. But everywhere the sea is showing its distress: the blooming algae and poisoned fish are all too common. Even more alarming, the discharge of hazardous chemicals has stunted and deformed marine life. The link between organochlorines and the reported fall in human male sperm count may not be definitive; but it is undoubtedly disturbing.

By contrast, Britain has taken the lead in tackling the other big threat to life in the North Sea: overfishing. British fishermen, who have already had to cut back their days at sea, complain that soon there will be nothing left to fish. Already stocks of cod, plaice and sole are so low that replacement may not be possible. Britain has also supported measures that were passed at Esbjerg: the holding of an emergency conference on fish stocks next year, the protection of species and habitats and the ban on the discharge of oily waste and chemicals by ships.

The North Sea has never stirred Britons' emotions as have the Channel or even the Atlantic. It has however been the nearest and largest source of food from the sea, and for a generation its energy riches have kept the nation afloat. Its healthy survival is a matter of vital interest. Waspish ministerial comment, particularly from Svend Auken of Denmark, has enlivened events at Esbjerg this week. It has given Greenpeace a publicity victory. But it should not be allowed to obscure the small but important decisions that may help to save one of the world's most endangered seas.

CHINA'S DAY IN COURT

The safeguards for the rule of law in Hong Kong are imperfect

The accord between Britain and China on Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal may avert one danger, that of a legal vacuum when China assumes sovereignty in July 1997. But the terms of the agreement are not without risk for the secure functioning of the rule of law in Hong Kong. Chris Patten, the Governor, has been condemned not only in Hong Kong's Legislative Council, which must approve the relevant Bill, but by some of the colony's most eminent lawyers.

Their first cause for concern is that the court, which will replace the judicial committee of the Privy Council, will not open its doors until after Britain departs. Mr Patten had previously insisted that in order to gain experience and win public confidence, the judges needed to be selected and the court to be up and running well before 1997 — as China had agreed in 1991.

The British and Hong Kong Governments defend this key concession on the ground that legislation can now go forward with China's support rather than under the cloud of a Chinese threat to dismantle the court in 1997. But this was a surrender both to blackmail and to China's assertion of its right to renege on any agreement which no longer suits it. China could change its mind again even after the legislation has been passed — since the court will not yet be in place.

This was not Britain's only concession. The Court of Final Appeal Bill lays down in considerable detail the way the court will operate. An independent commission will, as stipulated in China's Basic Law for post-1997 Hong Kong, appoint the Chief Justice. But that still leaves vital matters unsettled. It will be left to the Chinese — the chief executive and principal officers of the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region who China will designate next year — to decide who sits on the bench and how the court is to be administered. Britain and Hong Kong will advise — but only advise.

Mr Patten is also open to the charge that Britain has undermined the court in advance, by agreeing that under Hong Kong law, the Court of Final Appeal will be bound by China's definition of what is an "act of state", and therefore outside the jurisdiction

of any court. International common law limits these acts to such clear exercises of the sovereign prerogative such as treaties, acts of war or blockade — but China spreads the net far wider. Article 19 of China's Basic Law for Hong Kong refers to "acts of state such as defence and foreign affairs" — and gives Peking the final say on what this means. Such points may seem wholly arcane; but this ambiguous wording leaves ample room for China to rule, on quite arbitrary grounds, that a policy or decision by the post-1997 Hong Kong Government is an act of state and thus immune from legal challenge.

In the words of Martin Lee, QC, this amounts to a "complete law with Chinese characteristics" — law subject to political whims. It could limit legal challenges to abuses of official power. Somebody dismissed for political reasons could, for example, be prevented from appealing to the court. Mr Patten's defence, that Article 19 will be the law of the land after 1997, hardly justifies a British blessing for its provisions.

The British can, however, claim to have drawn some of Article 19's teeth. China has agreed that an "act of state" will not include decisions on the constitutionality of laws, where the court will have jurisdiction. China has also dropped its demand for a "post-verdict remedial mechanism" giving the Chief Executive power to overturn court decisions. But it must have been clear even to Peking that this would openly breach the 1984 Sino-British Declaration, destroying the entire concept of "final appeal".

Mr Patten's difficult choice was between legislating without a deal and opting for a compromise which does less than justice to the legal framework which is the fount of Hong Kong's prosperity. In the name of realism, he may win over enough critics to see this legislation through. But he is unlikely to regain the authority and popular trust he has won by defending Hong Kong's rights to true autonomy. For China, this was always a test of who rules Hong Kong. With this decision, the sun set yesterday over British rule. But that is of less importance than the question mark it leaves over the integrity of "one country, two systems".

SAMMY LEARNS TO FORGET

How sad to be a politically correct sea lion!

Sammy was glum. For in addition to providing that formulaic opening sentence for a children's picturebook, he had just become a victim of strange new rules enforced by animal rights bullies.

Sammy is a sea lion. For the first five years of his salt-water life he was trained to perform simple tricks in order to amuse visitors to the Welsh Mountain Zoo at Colwyn Bay. He caught plastic balls and balanced them on his nose. He was trained to hunt for fish spears hidden in blocks of ice. He barked to attract attention. And in particular, he learnt to stand upright on his back flippers and clap his front flippers in apparent gratitude for being fed mackerel.

But then Sammy was transferred to Longleat safari park, where they disapprove of such circus tricks as unnatural and exploitative. (Though in its own extravagance, Longleat has done the human equivalent of barking since it was one of the first stately homes to open to the public.) So first stately homes to open to the public. So now they are trying to rehabilitate Sammy's behaviour by feeding him only when he is swimming around quietly without barking. Unfortunately, the five female sea lions who live with Sammy bark all the more. And so what Sammy is gaining in modern animal

correct behaviour, he is losing in blubber. Ever since the days of Zeus's sedate metamorphoses and Balaam's ass, humans have been treating other animals as extensions of themselves. But it is surely unfair at this stage in evolution to try to teach old seadogs new tricks: it is as unkind as reprogramming Pavlov's dogs not to salivate when the bell rings. Witnesses to animals' enjoyable interaction with humans range from sheepdogs herding sheep around the hill to budgerigars imitating sentimental human cry.

We cannot measure what animals feel. The circus and other such animal exploitations are out of fashion in a world of game parks and sensitive nature films. But animals, like humans, seem to enjoy having something to do. The new sniffer-dogs seem to like their work, as cats still purr and stretch in pleasure at human contact.

From the earliest fables to the latest safari parks, animals have had much to teach their human species. They are part of our mythology and our virtual reality. But humans continually sentimentalise their message. Sammy the sea lion, suddenly deprived of the only occupation he was any good at, now feels the equivalent of middle-class employment insecurity.

Cohabitation and changing Christian certainties on sin.

From Prebendary Rodney Schofield

Sir, *Something to Celebrate*, the new Church of England report on families, tells us (report, June 7) that "cohabitation, which involves a mutual, lifelong, exclusive commitment may be a legitimate form of marriage". Unfortunately no one else can think of it unless the couple have declared their intention publicly. And the report itself remarks earlier that cohabitation beyond the age of 45 is rare, and indeed tends to be short-lived, lasting two years on average.

It does seem to me, therefore, that while "cohabitation needs to be attended to with sympathy and discernment" it should never be forgotten that it is in practice an unstable relationship, and therefore to speak of it, as the report does, as "a serious commitment" is to fly in the face of the facts.

I welcome much else in the report as enormously helpful and challenging, but it is a pity that in the more controversial areas the Church of England did not apparently take the opportunity to consult with other ecumenical partners. There are statements and conclusions here from which other Christian bodies may wish to distance themselves. And if they do, the credibility of our Christian witness will be impaired.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY SCHOFIELD
(Director of Ordinands,
Diocese of Bath and Wells),
The Rectory, West Monkton,
Taunton, Somerset.
June 7.

From Mr Edwin J. Broomhall

Sir, Do the leaders in the Church have any biblical basis in their understanding of the Christian faith to declare in the pulpits of our churches today?

An archbishop says people do not take hell seriously any more, and that they are confused about the meaning of the soul (report, November 8, 1994). Christ speaks of soul, body and hell: He warns the rich fool that his soul will be required of him (Luke xii, 20).

This week a pulpit in Oxford is given over to one of another religion to preach to a congregation of a thousand (report, June 5). Have we no one who can preach the Christian Gospel, or is the Church to be misused as a

public auditorium for a political address?

Now we are told that sin is no longer sin. Jesus said, repent or you perish.

This all seems to put aside the true purpose of the Church to declare the redemptive work of Christ. What faith and beliefs does the Church of England now hold?

Yours faithfully,
EDWIN J. BROOMHALL,
16 Queen's Drive, Bedford.
June 8.

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Can we hope that the Church's report will help towards a recognition that how people live and regulate their lives is, within the law, a matter for themselves to decide?

The really important issue for our society is not the formal or legal arrangement between consenting parties, but the way in which we prepare for parenthood and how successfully we cope with that.

The future rests on our children and unless we ensure that they are given every opportunity to thrive and succeed in a life for which they have had no say, then we are failing our civilisation.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Clwyd.
June 7.

From Sir John Herbecq

Sir, The report on family life produced by the Bishop of Bath and Wells is entitled *Something to Celebrate*. It is a matter for celebration that St Paul did not feel impelled to "wrestle with the realities of contemporary society" in Corinth.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HERBECQ,
Maryland,
10 Ledgers Meadow, Cuckfield,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
June 7.

From the Reverend Clive Calver,
Director General of the
Evangelical Alliance UK

Sir, In announcing that living in sin is no longer sinful the Church is in danger of baptising contemporary culture

by simply accepting what society regards as the norm and granting it the blessing of the Church.

The Christian faith is historical or it is nothing. Christianity's traditional message about relationships is one of a committed partnership in the bonds of marriage and under the gaze of God. Of course the Church should welcome cohabiting couples, but the offer of friendship in our churches does not mean we have to agree with their perspective.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE CALVER, Director General,
Evangelical Alliance UK,
Whitefield House,
186 Kennington Park Road, SE11.
June 7.

From the Rector of Bath Weston

Sir, Once again a Church of England report covering an ethical matter confuses condemning sin with condemning the sinner. Of course every sinner is welcome in the Church, else there would be none — are we not all sinners?

Surely the right and traditional line to take is to welcome the sinner and yet hold out for the historic Christian idea of marriage, which necessarily means calling cohabitation a sin.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK WHITWORTH,
The Rectory,
Church Street, Weston, Bath, Avon.
June 7.

From Mr J. Lovatt

Sir, Does not the Church's statement on sin show that it is being led rather than leading?

Yours sincerely,
JOSEPH LOVATT,
The Bath Arms, Horningsham,
Warminster, Wiltshire.
June 8.

From Mr John Harvey

Sir, In order to avoid offending other sinners, shouldn't the Ten Commandments now become the Ten Constructive Suggestions?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARVEY,
1 Drove Cottage,
Roddmoor, Lewes, East Sussex.
June 6.

Scott inquiry questions

From Dr Roy Turner

Sir, Simon Jenkins's diatribe ("Riding Scott's tiger", June 7) against the methods of the Scott inquiry has much merit in it — looked at from the point of view of the ministers and civil servants involved. For the rest of us, given the secrecy which surrounds the normal process of British government, his arguments are less compelling.

There must be something very seriously wrong, if the methods of the Scott inquiry are a "travesty of natural justice", as the heading says, how can we describe the actions of ministers who were prepared to send the Matrix Churchill innocent men to jail?

Deception seems to be part of the politicians' stock in trade. As long as they keep it amongst themselves we tolerate it. When they aid and abet a manifest injustice we should not really be concerned about how they are exposed.

Yours faithfully,
ROY TURNER,
2 Vine Cottage,
Roddmoor, Lewes, East Sussex.
June 8.

From Mr Bill Kearns

Sir, May I disagree with Mr W. J. Bishop (letter, June 8) that the leak will be seen as a lasting blot when history is written?

Rather it will be seen as the corrective counterweight which emerged to balance the damage done by an increasingly secretive, valueless and unsavoury government.

Yours ever,
BILL KEARNS,
33 Battersea Park Road, SW8.
June 8.

From Mr Andrew Cumming

Sir, Mr Waldegrave states (report, June 7): "There was no conceivable reason why I should wish to have taken the absurd risk of consciously misleading Parliament for my personal or political gain" (my italics).

Yours faithfully
(until I get a better offer),
ANDREW CUMMING,
31 Honeyman Close, NW6.
June 8.

Two de sweet

From Mr Tim Biddiscombe

Sir, Surely the answer to Eurostar's problem with puddings and cheese (Daisy, June 7) is to serve them in the order preferred in the country of destination.

Travellers would then be prepared for the culture shock of being abroad, and the social socialism of serving the two together would be avoided.

Yours sincerely,
TIM BIDDISCOMBE,
27 Saxon Road, Hove,
Worral, Merseyside.
June 7.

Weekend Money letters, page 33

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

How to end Test sticky wickets

From Dr Ian J. Dilworth

Sir, The first day of the Test match at Headingley had six stoppages, totalling 110 minutes, until the rain stopped play for the day at 5.25pm (report, June 9). It occurs to me that the time may have arrived for a small radar set at Test sites to allow accurate indication of the weather about to reach the pitch. Information from national sources tends to be too general.

If the rainfall rate, rain direction and time to reach the pitch were made known in advance to the umpires they could get the covers on more rapidly, play could resume quicker and false starts, a particularly important reason for batsmen losing their concentration, could be avoided. Damp periods could be used for tea breaks.

Suitable radars are available for a fairly modest outlay. They have a small antenna and could be mounted on a temporary pole. The equipment could be transported to each Test venue during the season.

On the other hand the radio description of a groundsman, supervised by the umpires, using a towel and a black bin liner to mop up water on the pitch is perhaps too good an entertainment to lose.

Yours,
IAN DILWORTH (Director, Radio Frequency Engineering Centre),
University of Essex,
Department of Electronic Systems Engineering,
Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ.
June 9.

Train speed record

From Mr D. R. Wallace

Sir, Your report of June 3 on the new British passenger-train speed record and your rather patronising editorial in the same issue overlooked an important point: the French and Japanese trains which you mention achieve their high speeds on new purpose-built track, with no slow-moving freight trains, few junctions and long straight stretches. In contrast, the new British record was set on a route built in the middle of the 19th century, when speeds of even 100mph were scarcely dreamed of.

The fact that this new speed record is a modest 100mph or so more than the previous one, set in 1985, is testimony to the failure of successive British governments to invest in railway infrastructure, rather than to any shortcoming in British technological expertise.

When the new link between the Channel Tunnel and London is completed, speeds similar to those achieved in France will at last be possible in this country.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. WALLACE,
6 St Thomas's Close,
Prudhoe, Northumberland.
June 3.

Oxford protest

From Mr Simon Armitage

Sir, Your report today (News in Brief, later editions) a survey showing that a majority of Oxford students have taken part-time jobs to help to make ends meet, and that 44 per cent of them have missed meals to save money; on average they have debts of £1,718 which they expect to increase in the near future.

It seems to me that university education is preparing these students admirably for the big bad world.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON ARMITAGE,
27 Oakwood Drive,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
June 7.

May holidays

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, General Sir John Hackett (letter, June 2) is right to draw attention to the anomalous state of public holidays especially in spring. Unless some action is taken before the year 2000 we shall then have the absurdity of Bank Holidays on two successive Mondays, since Easter Sunday that year is April 23 and the following May Day falls on a Monday.

Yours truly,
JOHN F. MARTIN,
57 Tychhurst Hill,
Loughton, Essex.
June 3.

From Mr Alan Halliday

Sir, I do not believe that Whit Monday has some prior claim to being the public holiday in May. May Day (ie, May 1) was celebrated by one and all long before Christian holidays came into vogue.

Yours faithfully,
A. HALLIDAY,
66 Banbury Road, Oxford.
June 2.

Sporting double

From Mr Martin Porter

Sir, But there is a second Circle Line train on the London Underground. Surely Mr Goodve (letter, June 8) takes it to work in the morning.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PORTER,
2 Temple Gardens, EC4.
June 9.

Small bookshops and cheaper books

From Mr Frederick Forsyth

Sir, I note with approbation the report by the House of Commons National Heritage Select Committee supporting the retention of the Net Book Agreement (details, June 8).

Like any example of retail price maintenance, the NBA is extremely easy to attack. But one should first give great consideration to two points.

There are thousands of small bookshops which are a service and delight to their communities. Nevertheless they exist on stringent financial margins. To exist at all, they need the income from the sure-fire best-selling blockbusters.

If these are taken away by the supermarkets, the smaller bookshops cannot afford to stock, or survive upon the sales of the thousands of other minority-interest titles they presently make available. These other titles collectively give great pleasure to our book-reading public, aesthetically, culturally and educationally. Yet the supermarkets would never dream of stocking them. I believe the abolition of the NBA would drive hundreds of small bookshops into receivership.

Every year our publishers are able to take a "flyer" on new, unknown writers — hundreds of them in fact — as well as publishing academic, artistic and poetic works, along with reprints of the classics. They can do so because they have the margin afforded by the sales of the blockbusters. Without this margin it would be a rare publisher who could risk a new and

small-scale writer. Yet remember this: all the blockbusting authors today were aspirant hopefuls, praying that a publisher would take a chance on them.

In short, a choice of books is more important to this country than a choice of breakfast cereals.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK FORSYTH,
East End Green Farm,
Hertfordshire.
June 8.

From Mr Harry Ganz

Sir, According to your report today, supporters of the NBA fear that its removal "could force small booksellers out of business, because they would lose income to multiples that could cut prices". But what is the difference between books and any other commodities?

Smaller, independent shops of all descriptions — pharmacies, perfumeries, grocers and bookshops — are closing down because of competition from the multiples. We are now a nation of shrinking shopkeepers.

Perhaps the only solution is to return to the old days of RPI-X, with controlled pricing, when all shops could compete equally.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY GANZ,
The Garden Pharmacy,
119 Long Acre, WC2.
June 8.

Offences by women

From Mr Rob Allen

Sir, The fact that more women are sent to prison for non-payment of a television licence than for robbery, burglary, drug offences or crimes against the person (report, June 6) is a modern-day scandal.

The cost, in both human and financial terms, is staggering. To send a typical TV licence defaulter — a single mother with two children — to prison for one week costs over £2,000, roughly 25 times the price of the original television licence. The effects on children when their mother is imprisoned, especially if there is no one else to look after them and they end up in care, are also extremely damaging.

It would be greatly to the credit of the BBC and the Government if they were to review this issue as a matter of urgency. Perhaps only those offenders who it is realistic to assume have the money to pay a £1,000 fine should be prosecuted in future? Or we could follow the example of Scotland, where courts are required first to recover the fine as a civil debt before any question of imprisonment can arise.

Yours faithfully,
ROB ALLEN,
(Director of Policy, Research and Development),
National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders,
169 Clapham Road, SW9.
June 6.

School transport

From Dr T. R. Evans

Sir, Essex County Council's proposals to cut school transport concessions (reports, June 5) fill me with dismay. I was born in Clacton and educated at the Royal Grammar School, Colchester, from 1956-63. Coming from a family on a very low income, I could not have attended this school unless my fares had been paid. In due course Essex Education Authority paid for me to attend medical school and qualify as a doctor. Later, I was appointed as a London teaching hospital consultant.

Obviously the Liberal Democrats/Labour-controlled council in Essex do not believe in equal opportunities for those of equal ability irrespective of background. I therefore remain humbly grateful to their Tory predecessors to whom I owe my career. I am very sad that children in Essex today will not be able to benefit as I did.

I feel sure that my political hero, Clement Attlee, would not have approved. What do Mr Ashdown and Mr Blair think about this?

Yours faithfully,
T. R. EVANS,
3 Woodward Avenue, Hendon, NW4.
June 6.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

BRIGADIER REGINALD HUDSON

Brigadier Reginald Hudson, DSO, former garrison commander at Woolwich, died on May 26 aged 90. He was born on August 22, 1904.

REGGIE Hudson won his DSO in the Ardennes while commanding 83 Field Regiment in the Second World War. The citation for his award, during some of the fiercest fighting in the battle for North West Europe, praised not only the high standard of his gunners but the cool determination and judgment shown by Hudson himself under fire. His sense of duty while supporting 158 Infantry Brigade in the painful Allied advance towards Hitler's heartland was an "inspiration" to those serving around him.

Yet Hudson, who was also mentioned in dispatches about the same time, might be remembered in the history of the Royal Artillery (RA) for his battles in peacetime rather than for those in war.

On retiring from active service in December 1957 he became secretary of the Royal Artillery Institution, a job which he held for the next three and a half years. As such he helped to restructure the regiment's finances during that time. After a two-year fight in the High Court, a straggling forest of RA trusts, including ten major ones, was successfully pruned down to two, while at the same time the institution itself won charitable status. By coincidence, Hudson died just as his current successors at Woolwich are attempting to splice the remaining two trusts into one.

He was still better known, however, as a cricketer, who captained not only his regiment but the Army. His proudest moment was when he led the Army XI against a team of Australians captained by Bradman, and a photograph of the two men tossing a coin remained among the brigadier's most cherished possessions.

He played for the MCC and for the Free Foresters, scored more than one century at Lords and had a batting career average in the high 40s. The new RA cricket pavilion at Woolwich, in whose funding he became involved in later life, is named the "Reginald Hudson pavilion" in memory of him.



Reginald Eustace Hamilton Hudson was born in northern Bihar, India, where his father was a sugar cane planter. He was sent back to boarding school in this country, passing from Haileybury to the Royal Military Academy Woolwich — where gunners and engineers were trained before the war.

He was commissioned into the

artillery in 1924, and after spending two years at Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, went back to India — the first of several postings in the sub-continent and the Far East.

After serving with the North-West Frontier Police at Peshawar he returned to Britain where he instructed at the RMA Woolwich in the mid-1930s. He was a student at staff college when the war broke out, then joined

the British Expeditionary Force fighting in France.

Hudson often recalled his arrival at Dunkirk with the headquarters staff of 4th division. The beach was quiet and deserted when they arrived, so they snatched some much-needed sleep amid the dunes, to recuperate after an exhausting hike along the coastline.

They awoke to find a Thames barge in the water, towed by a tug which had appeared by magic and seemed to be waiting for them. They immediately clambered aboard and sailed home without incident.

A sequence of staff jobs awaited Hudson's return, before he took over command of 83 Field Regiment in 1942. He led the regiment through Europe until VE-Day. There followed a succession of postings in the Far East, in India, Malaya and Ceylon — where he was on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander South-East Asia, Lord Louis Mountbatten. Then between 1948 and 1950 he served for the first and last time at the War Office.

Hudson served in anti-aircraft artillery posts for several years before moving to his final appointment as garrison commander at Woolwich in 1955. Few jobs could have pleased him more than this last command, at the ancestral home of the artillery — to whom he remained devoted to the end.

He left his first retirement job as secretary of the RA Institution in 1961 to become a chairman of the Committee of Voluntary Welfare Work in the British Army of the Rhine. But then in 1964 at the age of 60 he resigned from that too and spent the next 30 years in quiet retirement.

Reggie Hudson was a formidable sportsman, not just at cricket. He also represented the RMA Woolwich and then the RA at hockey, squash and even rugby — despite his slight, willowy build.

He was a gentle man with a sense of humour to match and an infectious chuckle. But he remained at the same time a private man who had an inner reserve which was hard to penetrate.

Hudson, who died in a nursing home, married twice but was predeceased by both his wives. He had no children and is survived by a niece.

BETTINA VERNON

Bettina Vernon, Austrian dancer, died on June 5 aged 75. She was born in Vienna on February 22, 1920.



Bettina Vernon, left, with Evelyn Ippen in Ballet for Two, London, 1949

BETTINA VERNON preserved a piece of dance history by keeping alive the memory of one of the pioneers of modern dance, her former teacher, Gertrud Bodenwieser. Had it not been for Vernon, Bodenwieser might have passed out of recognition like so many others of her generation.

Vernon was born Bettina Lancer in Vienna soon after the First World War, the daughter of a musicologist. She grew up amid the diminished glories of what had once been one of Europe's most exciting cities for music, painting, politics and science. While young, her childish and untaught attempts at expressive dancing impressed a painter, Otto Friedrich, who encouraged her father to enrol her in the Vienna State Academy of music and theatre. The dance department there was under Bodenwieser's direction, who had been trying to translate the mechanical movements then fashionable into a real dance style.

There Vernon studied ballet as well as the new central European style of dance which at that time was as lively and influential as the different — and eventually more enduring — developments taking place in America. Vernon was still a student (although she had danced on a tour of Holland with Bodenwieser) when Hitler annexed Austria in 1938. She was however already married and fled with her husband to Paris, where unfortunately the Nazis caught up with him in 1940 and executed him.

Vernon returned to Vienna and completed her diploma. Bodenwieser too had gone abroad to escape the Germans. She and her group were in Colombia when the Second World War broke out, but in 1940 she managed to reach Australia, where she reformed her company and opened a school in Sydney. This continued until Bodenwieser's death in 1959, but left no great mark on dance in her adopted homeland.

After graduating, Vernon travelled to Australia and

joined the Bodenwieser company, becoming one of its leading dancers during the war. Whereas Bodenwieser refused ever to return to a Vienna which held unhappy memories for her, Vernon and another of the soloists, Evelyn Ippen, wanted to work in Europe again. In 1945 they formed themselves into a touring venture as Ballet for Two, performing some of Bodenwieser's dances as well as their own choreography, accompanied by a solo piano.

During the 1950s, after Vernon married her second husband, Wing Commander Charles Warren, Ballet for Two was based in Britain although still undertaking some tours abroad. Its work was admired by some influential senior critics.

Even after she had stopped dancing, Vernon remained passionate about Bodenwieser's work, and wanted to inform new generations about

a woman whose work would have otherwise been consigned to no more than a passing reference in a textbook.

Vernon gave lectures and classes, organised exhibitions, and luckily was helped by the interest in Viennese dance history of the then director of the Vienna State Opera Ballet, Dr Gerhard Brunner. He and his colleagues provided dancers who worked with Vernon in reconstructing some of Bodenwieser's dances. These were then performed publicly and preserved on video thus becoming available to future generations.

Although ill with cancer, for the past decade, Vernon gave no sign of this; all her energy, enthusiasm and zest were devoted to her self-appointed task, and she was preparing for further demonstrations in Russia when she died. She is survived by her second husband.

LORD ERSKINE OF RERRICK

Lord Erskine of Rerrick, 2nd Baron, died of prostate cancer in London on June 8 aged 69. He was born on January 22, 1926.

LITTLE can be asserted with any great confidence about the life of the 2nd Lord Erskine of Rerrick. To take him at (his own) face value as "professional photographer, management consultant and director of companies" would involve being at odds with the known career of a man whose photographic oeuvre is, to say the least, less than widely-known and whose consultancies and directorships were held against a background of debt, bankruptcy and other tangible evidences of indigence.

His "admitted links" to British Intelligence inhabited a similar factual pentameter. To be sure, his name was often cropping up in circumstances suggesting profound and subtle depths of international espionage. Greville Wynne, Adil Nasir and Saddam Hussein were figures with whose affairs his name was linked in press stories from time to time. But when pushed, neither government spokesmen nor leaders of the intelligence community ever seemed anxious to acknowledge their alleged servant.

What can be stated with certainty is that Iain Maxwell Erskine was born the son of John Maxwell Erskine, who was to be created 1st Lord Erskine of Rerrick in 1964 after a distinguished career with the Commercial Bank of Scotland. Erskine senior was subsequently Governor of Northern Ireland, 1964-68.

Iain Erskine was educated at Harrow. In 1944 he was commissioned into the Grenadier Guards with whom he was to serve for the remainder of the war and thereafter in peacetime, until 1963, retiring as a major.

In that time his posts included that of Comptroller to the Governor-General of New Zealand, 1960-62. Immediately after his retirement he took up the newly-created post of public relations officer to the Household Brigade and when this appointment ended in 1965 went into public relations with the firm of CS Services.

Thereafter, in the plethora of jobs which made up his CV, it was never possible quite to pinpoint where the thrust of his activities was. He was apparently involved in setting up the Advertising Standards Authority in 1965 and later emerged in such varied posts as managing director of Loocho Tran, 1972-73; chair-



Lord and Lady Erskine of Rerrick

man of Erskine Associates, 1979-82; and chairman of DK Financial Services (Dei-Ichi Kangyo), 1988-89. He succeeded his father as Lord Erskine of Rerrick in 1980, though in the next 15 years he never took his seat in the House of Lords.

never have guessed this. Before the Gulf War he had apparently been used as an unofficial Foreign Office emissary to Saddam Hussein, with a view to extracting from the Iraqi dictator important details of the supergrip. In 1993 after Asif Nadir fled from Britain to Cyprus, Erskine's name cropped up in connection with an alleged MI6 "dirty tricks" campaign against the Polly Peck tycoon.

Erskine was by that time living in Cyprus himself. He had moved there, having been made bankrupt two years earlier after refusing to pay a £28,000 overdraft to the Royal Bank of Scotland. He always claimed the bank (of which the Commercial Bank of Scotland, run by his father, had some years before become a part) was holding secret trusts worth half a million pounds which his father had established in his favour.

He subsequently altered his will to specify that although his body was to be left for medical scientific purposes: "to the Royal Bank of Scotland I leave my balls, as they appear to have none of their own."

In Cyprus he became further insolvent, running up a £2,000 overdraft and deciding to return to Britain after bailiffs closed in on his possessions in the island.

A proposed new career as a photographer never amounted to much, but Erskine had sat on the committees of a number of institutions, notably the De Havilland Aircraft Museum (BAe). He was also a trustee of the RAF Museum (Bomber Command) and of the David Tolkien Trust, Stoke Mandeville Hospital. He was three times married, to Marie Elisabeth Allen in 1955 (dissolved 1964); to Maria Josephine Klupp; and in 1993, to Debra, daughter of Gordon Knight. She survives him with the three daughters of his second marriage. There is no heir to the title.

JUAN CARLOS ONGANIA

General Juan Carlos Onganía, President of Argentina, 1966-70, died on June 8 aged 81. He was born on March 17, 1914.



on a small ranch in a corner of Buenos Aires province. Brought up entirely within the military ethos, he even fought a sabre duel in neighbouring Uruguay with a member of an Argentine aristocratic family whom he felt had insulted him. But he steered clear of politics and this preserved him during the difficult Perón period when many of his fellow officers were jailed. He likewise steered clear of politics under the regimes of Perón's successors and became commander-in-chief of the Argentine Army in 1962.

HARD riding cavalry officer and polo player though he was, Juan Carlos Onganía was never really more than a token president of Argentina. He was brought out of retirement to be head of state by the leaders of the three armed forces after they had deposed his democratically elected predecessor, Arturo Illia.

But although Onganía tried to take a tough line with the opposition to his autocratic rule, particularly with students, and genuinely tried to do something to improve the economy, social unrest against his unpopular measures eventually forced the military to think again, and he was dispatched into retirement with as little ceremony as he had been plucked from it. He had never really managed to exert control over what had for many years been a virtually uncontrollable country and for the last year or so of his regime his Government was virtually sleepwalking to disaster.

His honorable, but simplistic cavalryman's precepts were simply not equal to coping with the miasma of Argentine politics, nor to understanding the rage of the substantial portions of the population who were indignant at the denial of their rights.

Of Basque stock, Juan Carlos Onganía had been raised

to the endemic squabbles between the armed forces.

He retired in 1965 but had only a year of rural tranquillity before being summoned by the forces to the highest office of state. But the simplicity and directness of character which had served him well in inter-force disputes was not equal to performing a similar feat with a disaffected civilian population, which had had a taste of liberal democracy under Arturo Illia and was not prepared to stomach another suppression of civil liberties without a fight.

Onganía cracked down on the press, was severe on modernism and criticism of the regime in the arts, and intolerant of student protest. Though he tried to encourage the business community and improve the economic situation, his tendency to see all Argentina's problems in terms of economics was, in the end, his undoing. The business community he was trying to help was not interested in placating liberal elements in society, yet Onganía ignored the liberals at his peril.

Another weakness in his position was that his short period in retirement had lost him his powerful position with the forces. He was their nominee, but in no sense at the apex of a junta. When his economic minister was forced to resign in 1969 the writing was on the wall for him. Further strikes and protests led to his own swift removal in 1970. Thereafter he lived quietly in retirement.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of *Widdowson v. Widdowson*, the Court of Appeal has given judgment on the appeal from the decision of the High Court in *Widdowson v. Widdowson*, [1995] 1 All ER 385, [1995] 1 WLR 1000.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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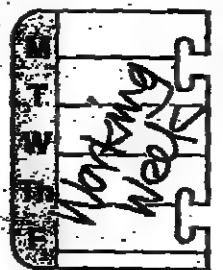
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JUNE 10 1995



Sir Peter Osborne, chairman, left, and Antony Little, design director, saw full-year profits at Osborne & Little increase to a record £3.6 million

Material gain for O&L

SIR Peter Osborne, chairman at Osborne & Little, unveiled a 40 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to a record £3.6 million in the year to March 31. The upmarket wallpaper and fabrics group raised the final dividend from 4p to 6p and revealed a special dividend of 4p, making a total of 10p, up 108 per cent. Earnings per share rose from 26.4p to 37p. The shares rose sharply before profit-taking left them unchanged at 465p.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3337.7	(-45.1)
Yield	4.1%	
FT-SE All Share	1841.32	(-17.16)
Nikkei	18944.18	(-368.12)
Dow Jones	4627.78	(-30.78)
S&P Composite	526.51	(-1.04)
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Long Bond	7 1/8%	(11 1/8%)
3-mth Interbank	5 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)
3-mth Libor	5 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
London	1.5960	(1.5945)
DM	1.5945	(1.5925)
DM	2.2384	(2.2330)
FF	1.7855	(1.7820)
FF	1.8470	(1.8390)
Yen	134.38	(135.77)
2 India	84.1	(84.5)
London	1.4051	(1.4082)
DM	4.9299	(4.9515)
FF	1.1585	(1.1615)
FF	84.38	(84.65)
Yen	85.3	(85.1)
Telco close Yen	84.70	
15-day (Aug)	\$17.35	(\$17.55)
London close	\$397.85	(\$398.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Greenbury ignores excessive pay levels

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Greenbury inquiry into executive pay will make only one recommendation requiring a change in the law — and that will be on a relatively minor point on boardroom earnings.

Though the Greenbury committee, in its report to be published at the end of next month, will put forward a range of proposals on bonuses, share options and pay disclosure, its findings are unlikely to resolve the current concerns over directors' pay since they will completely avoid dealing with the actual pay levels, which form a

substantial part of public anger over top pay.

But ministers are likely to be most embarrassed by the fact that the inquiry, headed by Sir Richard Greenbury, Marks and Spencer chairman, will propose little which will require legislative change.

While John Major was careful when he said in March that he was prepared to legislate if necessary on the basis of Greenbury's recommendations, ministers and the inquiry acknowledge privately that there is now a public expectation — partly driven by the Prime Minister's description

of excessive boardroom pay rises as "distasteful" — that the Government will bring in new laws to prevent boardroom pay abuse.

In fact, the single move the Greenbury committee is expected to recommend that will need legislation is the scrapping of the requirement for firms to disclose the number of directors' salaries in £5,000 pay bands.

Under the Companies Act 1985, companies where executive remuneration exceeds £60,000 are required to declare the emoluments of the chairman and highest-paid

director, and to list the number of directors in each £5,000 pay band, starting from zero.

In its report, which was delivered earlier this week to the Department of Trade and Industry and to the CBI, which set it up at the Prime Minister's urging, the Greenbury inquiry is to recommend full disclosure in an easily comprehensible form of all the earnings for all the directors of a company.

The draft report suggests this can best be done by changes to the Stock Exchange's Yellow Book which stipulates the information that companies must disclose.

Trade deficit of £520m the lowest for four years

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

RECORD exports brought Britain's trade deficit with the rest of the world down to its lowest level for four years in March in figures which were described as spectacularly good by the City.

The March deficit totalled £520 million, the smallest monthly shortfall since June 1991, according to the Central Statistical Office, and half of what the City had been anticipating.

But the surprisingly good picture was also underlined by very large upward revisions for exports in January and February, backing up the message from recent Confederation of British Industry surveys which had been giving positive signals.

As a result, February's deficit, originally estimated at £1164 million, was revised

Share prices suffered widespread losses with government securities plunging more than £2 as worries about mounting inflationary pressures came back to haunt investors. The FT-SE 100 index, which closed on Thursday at its highest level this year, tumbled 43.1 to 3337.7. Any hopes of a rally were finally dashed by the start of trading on Wall Street where the Dow Jones average suffered an early 40-point fall.

The latest quarter's figure was the lowest for any three-month period since the first quarter of 1987. In the first quarter, exports rose 5 per cent while imports rose only 2 per cent.

Taking out oil and erratics, the deficit in March was £1,266 billion, compared with £1,370 billion in February. The CSO said that the lowest deficit in March was because of higher exports of oil and precious stones and lower imports of aircraft. However, it said that it now estimates that Britain's overall trade deficit is on an improving trend.

US producer prices were unexpectedly flat in May after a 0.5 per cent increase in April, partly because of sharp falls in food and energy prices. After stripping out these often erratic components, core prices were up 0.3 per cent, about what the markets had been expecting.

down to £694 million, mainly because of higher exports to the European Union. January's original shortfall of £1,107 million was revised down to £775 million.

This run of strong exporting figures brought the deficit in the first quarter down to £1,989 billion from £3 billion in the final quarter of last year.

Barclays staff call one-day strike for July 4

By Christine Buckley

STAFF at Barclays Bank are to stage a second strike over pay after talks between unions and the bank earlier this week proved fruitless.

Unifi, the banking union, yesterday called a one-day strike on July 4 in the dispute over the imposition of a 2.75 per cent pay rise. Last month, a one-day strike forced at least 230 branches of the bank to close. Unifi's strike call is backed by Bifu, the banking and insurance union.

Iain MacLean, Unifi's assistant general secretary, said: "We aim to demonstrate to Barclays that we are deadly serious about this and that we are not going to be intimidated." He said that Unifi, which until the strike on May 30 had not taken industrial action in over 80 years at the bank, was determined to fight the imposed award, the fourth consecutive sub-inflation rise. The unions are seeking a rise of 5 per cent or 1600, whichever is the greater.

Barclays yesterday said that it was "saddened and disappointed" that a second strike was planned and accused the union of lacking the support of its members to conduct a further stoppage.

The unions said they were willing to go to arbitration but accused Barclays of intransigence. Barclays said that although it agreed to meet the unions on Monday to "discuss the events of the past few weeks" it was not prepared to reopen the subject of pay.

Unifi is also accusing Barclays of intimidation tactics after letters were sent to employees who went on strike warning them that they had acted in breach of contract and that such a move could lead to disciplinary action including dismissal.

Mr MacLean said that the union had a mandate for a series of strikes with no limit on the number of days.

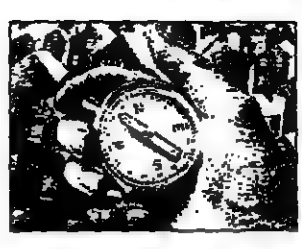
WEEKEND MONEY



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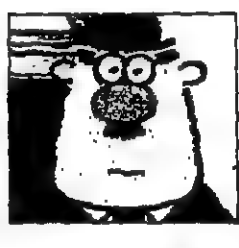
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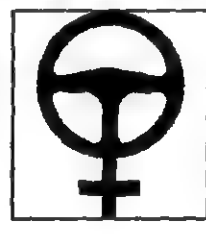
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Nynex shares open at a premium

By Eric Reguly

NYNEX CableComms, which floated yesterday on the London and Nasdaq markets, reversed a trend when it became the first cable company to see its shares climb above their issue price.

The offering of 305 million shares, which raised £383 million, was launched at 137p and rose to 141p before settling back to close at 137 1/2 p.

The shares of the six other cable companies that have floated since last year all fell below their issue price. But Nynex, which is the second largest cable company, had to price its shares at the lower end of their expected range of 131p to 151p to ensure their placement.

One of the company's underwriters said: "We decided to adopt a reasonably cautious and conservative approach to the valuation."

Nynex shares were sold at a

hefty 30 per cent discount to the Thursday closing price of the shares of TeleWest Communications, the leading player in the industry. The discount was based on calculations that measure potential earnings from the number of homes in each company's cable franchises.

Nynex will use the flotation funds to expand its network. The company has 2.7 million homes in its franchises, but its cables pass by less than a third of them.

It may also use the money to help pay for the acquisition of a neighboring franchise, Eugene Connell. Nynex's chief executive, said consolidation will reduce the number of cable companies from 16 to four or five over the next few years.

New City post for Wakeham

By George Sivell

LORD WAKEHAM, the former Cabinet Minister, yesterday picked up his second non-executive directorship within two days. He adds the non-executive chairmanship of Kalon, the paints group, to the non-executive chairmanship of Voeper Thornycroft, the shipyard group, announced on Thursday after Cabinet Office approval.

He is expected to be paid about £35,000 a year at Voeper, much the same as the present part-time chairman. Fees for non-executive directors in the City can range from £5,000 to £70,000.

Lord Wakeham ran into flak earlier this year after joining the board of N M Rothschild, the City merchant bank which advised the Government on the coal privatisation around the time that he was Energy Secretary.

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The Busy Bee understanding process

I am not an expert on the building society movement — far from it. But I am fascinated by the movements within the movement. People, as you may have noticed, don't buy houses anymore. They become members of building societies instead. House price speculation has proved a dangerous pastime but takeover speculation, within the movement, is all the rage. Takeover bids in the corporate sector are one thing, takeover bids in the building society arena quite another. Sometimes the twain meet. Such is the case with Abbey National's £1 billion designs on the National & Provincial (which is a "mutual" with a busy bee emblem). The message from Abbey was that

such a combination would make "sound strategic sense". Subject to "further information being made available" the Abbey expected to offer members of N&P a "substantial premium" over net asset value.

This is the Abbey's fourth attempt to buy the National & Provincial: a sort of Abbey habit. Transparency may be in vogue but not in the building society movement. Peter Birch, chief executive of the Abbey, has been criticised for making Abbey's intentions known. His most vociferous critic is John Wriglesworth, a former analyst at UBS, who now communicates from within the Bradford & Bingley, spearheaded by Geoffrey Lister, a fervent supporter of mutual ownership. When the Abbey announced its intentions, Wriglesworth opined that such action was "stupid, aggressive and naive". In his words: "All they have done is put people's backs up. They will never buy a building society."

Some time ago, in April, the Abbey National (which used to be a building society but is now a bank) let it be known that it wanted to acquire the National & Provincial (which is a "mutual" with a busy bee emblem). The message from Abbey was that

Abbey is the only N&P suitor to disclose its interest but it is most certainly not a lone suitor. Lloyds Bank, not content with paying £1.8 billion for the Cheltenham & Gloucester, has joined the N&P auction. Some say that Lloyds' interest reflects spoiling tactics: aimed at forcing the likes of Abbey to pay dearly. Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, backs in the secrecy associated with the building society movement. It is not known what exchanges, if any, took place between Pitman and Lord Tugendhat, chairman of the Abbey, at last week's International Monetary Conference for bankers in Seattle. Suffice to say that Pitman, who lost out to Sir William Purves, chairman of HSBC Holdings, in the race to rescue Midland Bank, has not clarified the situation.

Ironically, Midland's name has also been linked to National & Provincial. Perhaps Lloyds is attempting, once again, to spoil a Midland play. Or could it be the



MELVYN MARCKUS

other way round? TSB, normally perceived as prey rather than a predator, is another outsider. The perception of TSB is the way it is because the City has never quite recovered from the company's acquisition of Hill Samuel. Nationwide, which reported a 32 per cent rise in 1994-95 pre-tax profits to £345.4 million this week, is reputed to be showing considerable interest in N&P.

Certain observers are concerned about this. Such concern reflects the belief within the movement that Nationwide's merger with Anglia was ill-considered. Thankfully, Nationwide's loan loss provisions fell by 45 per cent from £282 million to £154 million. Also knocking at N&P's door is the Alliance & Leicester, presumably because it wants to offer the British public something even more exciting than Girobank.

What is so special about the National & Provincial? I put this question to Alastair Lyons, its chief executive. He told me that the principal attraction of N&P was the "strength of our relationships with 3 million customers". He stressed that N&P had achieved a reputation for "fairness, good advice and good value".

This is no mean achievement for any bank or building society, particularly in view of the controversial reign of Mr Lyons' predecessor, David O'Brien, who was ousted from the Busy Bee

board last September. It was O'Brien who introduced a management philosophy known as "The Understanding Process". Under this system N&P staff are reputed to have been given unusual titles such as "director of customer engagement", "process facilitator" and "manager of the understanding process". Staff meetings were referred to as "understanding events". It is said, by some, that such practices led to open management which permitted even the lowest bee to know what was going on in the hive. Unfortunately, this did not include O'Brien who was clearly caught unawares when the rug — along with a £300,000-plus remuneration package — was pulled. As Lord Shuttleworth remarked at the time: "We felt David's particular strength was the creative side but felt that Alastair Lyons' strengths were more suitable for the society these days. After I had spoken to Mr O'Brien he resigned. You could say that was by mutual

agreement or whatever." What is clear is that O'Brien's indirect influence on the building society movement has been immeasurable. O'Brien, it may be recalled, was long ago set to take over as chief executive of the merged Leeds Permanent/N&P — a deal that foundered when the Leeds suffered a change of heart and chose instead to cosy up to the Halifax — a duo that are poised to become a bank.

Lyons refuses to identify suitors but promises clarification soon. This will be welcomed, not least by members of N&P's much publicised "Mutual Programme". It would appear that the banks are intent on buying what they have lost: customer relationships. Merrill Lynch, incidentally, recently predicted that mortgage margins would halve over the next two years and most societies "will cease to exist in any meaningful way". Shame, because the public abhor the banks yet retain a soft spot for the building societies.

Customers of Welsh Water to share £40m

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE biggest payback package to water customers yet announced and a massive 33.5 per cent rise in dividend payments yesterday surprised the City when Welsh Water unveiled its results.

The company which had been expected to make a large rebate, revealed plans for a £40 million payback to customers over four years, a leap in full-year dividend to 33.9p (25.4p) and a large capital restructuring programme.

The customers, who are in an area of the country where water is a particularly strong political issue, will get, for four years, an annual rebate on bills of £9 if they receive both water and sewerage services and £4.50 if they receive just one. Rebates will not start until next year, however. The company said it judged administration costs — at

£500,000 — too great to justify immediate payment.

Welsh also said that it would spend £38 million over four years on environmental improvements.

In its overhaul of its share structure, the company plans to issue nine preference shares for each holding of ten existing ordinary shares. It also plans to consolidate its equity structure by giving shareholders five new ordinary shares for each holding of six existing ordinary shares.

The preference shares will provide a cheaper form of finance as they carry a fixed coupon and do not lock the company into increased dividend payments, and the consolidation reduces the equity base. Together, the two strengthen dividend cover and function in a similar fashion to a share buyback but without risking the political sensitivity of such a move.

Angela Whelan, of Credit Lyonnais, declared the plans "very clever financial engineering".

The huge leap in dividend payment this year, which includes a special £9 million allocation, will not be repeated, although Welsh will not put a target on future levels. Iain Evans, the chairman, said: "We are not going to make predictions except to say that it will be competitive."

Analysts forecast the increase will be about 12 per cent next year. Welsh's pre-tax profits fell from £144 million to £120 million after exceptional restructuring charges. These included severance costs and a £11.5 million provision which was ploughed into Acer, the company's engineering consultancy division.

Acer, which has been hard hit by changes in government road policy and cancellation of contracts, made a £4.8 million loss last year. The diversified interests of water companies have often proved to be a drain on resources but some analysts feel Acer is a particular thorn in the side of Welsh. Mr Evans believes the company has turned the corner: "There was a problem but that is being fixed," he said.

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Evans: "competitive"

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Despite fewer agents Peter Johnson denied interest in hampers was waning

IP seeks dismissal of Holvis directors

By NEIL BENNETT

THE battle for Holvis, the Swiss paper distribution and textile group, turned vicious yesterday when International Paper, one of the bidders, called for a special meeting to dismiss the Holvis board.

IP, one of America's largest paper groups, is taking legal action against Holvis on Monday to try to block the rival takeover bid by BBA, the British engineering group. BBA has signed a lock-up agreement with Holvis which effectively prevents higher offers from other bidders. IP claimed yesterday that the agreement was illegal.

IP holds 25 per cent of Holvis's shares and has used the stake to call for a special meeting at which shareholders

would be asked to vote on three motions. IP wants to sack all Holvis directors instantly and replace them with five of its own candidates. IP is also demanding that Holvis hands shareholders information on why it signed the agreement. IP also proposes barring Holvis from selling either of its two main divisions. The agreement states that Holvis must sell Fiberweb, its non-woven textiles division, to BBA if it accepts a higher offer. Fiberweb is the main business wanted by IP.

IP will present its case at the Basle civil court on Monday, hoping that the court will grant an injunction to allow time for a special meeting.

NUM postpones strike at RJB pits

By MARTIN WALLER

THE threatened strike at RJB Mining was put on ice last night when the National Union of Mineworkers pledged to delay its industrial action over pay for three days.

The union, which had appealed after an earlier defeat in the High Court, told the Court of Appeal that it had not had time to prepare its case. As a result the NUM gave an undertaking not to strike until next Friday, by which time the appeal will have been heard.

RJB went to court yesterday for an injunction, which was granted by Lord Justice Mummery, preventing the NUM from taking strike action. The company, which took over the bulk of British Coal in December for £85

Park Food hampered in spite of profit rise

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

ONLY 196 shopping days to Christmas and the hamper industry is getting twitchy, judging by yesterday's reaction to Park Food Group's results.

The company, whose core business is Christmas hampers, sold through savings plans, disappointed the market which had hoped Santa 1994 would have brought a little more. Although pre-tax profits climbed 15.9 per cent to £13.7 million, analysts had expected about £14.5 million. Park Food's shares fell 19p on the day to 91p.

The City also heard alarm bells heralding the ghost of Christmas yet to come when Park Food said that its number of agents — who collect payment through the year for hampers — had fallen.

Peter Johnson, the chairman, said that profitability had suffered last year from a £1 million downturn in the wholesale hamper business which is mainly conducted through dairy deliveries. The decline in doorstep milk deliveries has dealt a blow to other services offered by dairy companies and sales of hampers to those companies slumped from £1.7 million to £700,000. The dividend was lifted 20 per cent to 2.85p, due on October 3.

Mr Johnson denied people were losing interest in traditional hampers. "People still want them and they are interested in buying through the savings plans which is the important thing," he said.

Park Food is also about to diversify into the low-calorie chip, which can be fried in a minute. But its plans have been delayed after the construction company building the production plant went into liquidation.

GEC quick to post £835m VSEL offer

THE General Electric Company has wasted no time in its bid to win control of VSEL, the Barrow warship and submarine builder. GEC yesterday posted its offer document, one day after it launched its knockout £835 million cash offer. GEC's cash bid, of £21.50 a share, topped the existing rival all-paper offer from British Aerospace, currently worth £17.39 per VSEL share, by £175 million.

Most analysts appear to think that BAE has little chance of succeeding in the battle unless it makes a substantially higher offer. Some analysts think BAE could lift its bid for VSEL again, possibly up to £23 a share without dilution, though most admit GEC seems set to win. Meanwhile, costs are mounting and BAE has yet to publish its offer document, so any move would have to come within a couple of weeks, though little is likely before the Paris air show finishes next week. VSEL shares added 16p to £21.56, while BAE was unchanged at 327p. GEC eased 2p to 320p.

Security Services buy

SECURITY SERVICES, the 51 per cent-owned subsidiary of Securicor, is buying ASD, a German guarding and alarms company for £17.8 million. The company is paying an initial £11.1 million, with an additional £6.7 million due in October. The additional payment will be reduced if ASD fails to make a £1.1 million profit in the six months to June 30. The company had a £49 million turnover last year. Security Services said the acquisition would give it a platform in the German security market and would fit with the Securicor guarding and alarms businesses based in Düsseldorf and Leipzig.

LUI second payout due

MORE than 80,000 people owed money by five insolvent insurance subsidiaries of London United Investments, the collapsed property and investment company, are still waiting to receive a second payout from administrators. Chris Hughes, at Cork Gully, told creditors that a further £140 million would be distributed later this year. This follows the distribution of £563 million last September. The average payment to creditors will be about seven cents in the dollar. The losses made by the companies — Kingscroft, Walbrook, El Paso, Lime Street and Mutual Reinsurance — could reach \$10.8 billion.

St James's profits fall

ST JAMES'S PLACE CAPITAL, the investment holding company jointly chaired by Lord Rothschild, suffered a 3 per cent fall in net assets per share to 83.7p for the year to March 31. Pre-tax profits dropped 76 per cent to £18.7 million. The previous year had included large profits on portfolio investments. Despite the fall, the group is holding its dividend at 3p per share. J Rothschild Assurance, the group's main life assurance subsidiary, increased new premium income by 30 per cent to £428 million and its funds under management rose above £1 billion.

Protean to buy Walther

PROTEAN, the water purification and scientific instrument group, is paying £12.9 million for the Walther group, makers of water purifiers in Germany. The company is funding it with a rights issue to raise £14.6 million. It is issuing one share for every four at 197p. Walther made a profit of DM5 million last year on sales of DM22.9 million. Meanwhile Protean announced a rise in pre-tax profits of 40 per cent in the year to March 31, on the back of a 29 per cent increase in sales to £54.4 million. The group is paying a final dividend of 4.25p, lifting its dividend for the year to 5.6p. Tempus, page 26

EBRD aid for Russia

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has agreed to grant Russia £60 million (£62 million) for urgent, short-term safety upgrades on three nuclear power plants. The money will come from the Nuclear Safety Fund, which the EBRD administers. The upgrading work will be at plants in Leningrad, Kola and Novovoronezh. Viktor Mikhailov, the Russian Minister for Nuclear Energy, in London to sign the EBRD agreement, said Russia would go ahead with plans to build a nuclear plant in Iran, in spite of US opposition.

Hong Kong's change of fortune?

By COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG, one of Asia's "tiger" economies, has been given the thumbs down as a place to do business by Fortune magazine which has had a sudden change of mind about the crown colony's prospects.

Six months ago, the influential New York publication described Hong Kong, due to be handed back to the Chinese in July 1997, as second only to Singapore among world business centres, ahead of London and New York. In next Monday's edition, it says Hong Kong will become a "backwater" after the handback.

Corruption and political sleaze will dictate the way Hong Kong is run, rather

than the British rule of law, media freedom will come under threat and non-Chinese companies will face discrimination, the magazine claims.

The Hong Kong Government Office in London was quick to point out, however, that the Fortune view was taken before Thursday's Sino-British agreement to set up a Hong Kong court of final appeal for the post-1997 era, completing the legal framework that should boost business confidence.

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday expressed concern about the US magazine's pessimism, said he considered it "greatly exaggerated". A speech he gave on Thursday indicated that he sees no cause for anxiety.

He pointed out that Hong Kong now

represents 26 per cent of China's gross domestic product, up from 18 per cent three years ago. Since 1992, the number of companies with their regional headquarters in Hong Kong had risen from 588 to 714 and nearly a thousand more foreign companies had set up shop.

Some 10,000 more Americans had arrived, a jump of 40 per cent, an increase more than matched by the influx of Britons, Canadians and Japanese. Clearly, no pre-1997 exodus.

Peking may have designated Shanghai as China's financial centre, but Chinese state-owned companies have invested heavily in Hong Kong and are a big presence on the territory's stock exchange. Damage to Hong Kong would also hurt corporate China.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

We all gave funds to the Tory party under Mrs Thatcher because our views were sought and listened to. Lord King told Jeremy Hanley, the Conservative chairman, on his departure from British Airways. No-one listens these days. It's about time the Tory party took the people who pay for it seriously; added King. Now many other industrialists and financiers have also given up on John Major.

Big Business Blues — in The Sunday Times tomorrow

	Bank	Share
Australia	2.31	2.14
Austria	16.82	15.32
Belgium	42.72	45.28
Canada	2.285	2.135
Cyprus	0.739	0.685
Denmark	1.32	1.25
Finland	7.18	8.50
France	6.51	7.88
Germany	14.48	15.18
Greece	377.00	352.00
Hong Kong	12.57	11.87
India	1.02	0.95
Israel	5.2655	4.85
Italy	221.00	209.00
Japan	142.91	135.50
Malta	0.987	0.96
Netherlands	2.088	2.438
Norway	10.58	8.78
Portugal	207.50	222.00
S Africa	5.25	5.43
Spain	789.50	789.50
Sweden	1.21	1.21
Switzerland	1.81	1.81
Taiwan	1.81	1.81
Turkey	1.81	1.81
USA	1.81	1.81

Notes: Only as quoted by Reuters Bank PLC. Different values apply to transfers of funds. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

A WORKING WEEK FOR: SALLY DAVIS

On the road with the first lady of cable

Nynex CableComms' flotation has meant a detour off the superhighway and on to a route running from Zurich to California. Eric Reguly reports

IT IS Tuesday and Sally Davis is in New York for the second time in two weeks. In the previous eight days, she and Nynex's top executives have conducted hit-and-run presentations for the initial public offering of Nynex CableComms in London, Geneva, Zurich, New York and across America, including Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, California and Massachusetts. Mrs Davis is executive director strategic planning, business development and regulation at Nynex.

Somewhere, she found time last weekend to fly back to London and visit her husband, Mark, and their 15-month-old daughter, Kate, but a bout of food poisoning ruined her few hours of pleasure. In New York, she was still feeling sick, dry toast and camomile tea was all she could handle for breakfast in the sumptuous dining room of the St Regis Hotel.

In mid-bite, she was whisked away by Nicholas Mearns-Smith, chief financial officer, for meetings on Wall Street. At noon, she was due to arrive at the Waldorf Astoria for the "big one" — a presentation in the Starlight Roof hall to 115 potential investors, including Mario Gabelli, of Gabelli & Co, who manages \$9 billion of funds. If this group proved rebellious, Nynex's flotation on the Nasdaq and London exchanges could flop. This particular presentation would be left to Mr Mearns-Smith and Eugene Connell, the chief executive, a natural salesman who could sell ice cream to an Eskimo. Mrs Davis would work the audience — "schmoozing" in the argot of Manhattan — to spread her conviction that Nynex was worth buying in spite of the widespread belief that the British cable sector had exaggerated its fortunes; the Anglo-American flotations of two rival operators, TeleWest Communications and General Cable, had been sorry investments.

Mrs Davis managed to stand out in the crowd despite her conservative black suit. She was one of the few women there and her three inch heels pushed her up to 5ft 10ins, making her as tall as most of the men. Mario Gabelli, for one, was impressed by the Nynex presentation. "All their stock will get sold," he predicted. "It's just a question now of what price." Yesterday, Nynex sold 305 million shares at 137p apiece, raising £393 million. Nynex did not raise as much as it had expected a few months ago, but there were some who thought it would not fly at all in the wake of the disappointing TeleWest and General flotations.

Mrs Davis admits she felt intimidated by the prospect of a two-week roadshow across Europe and America, promoting the public offering of Nynex CableComms, Britain's second largest cable operator. For all her experience in

the business world, Mrs Davis had never been on one before. She had never shied away from a challenge or a fight in her various careers, even if it meant losing her job over it, but had never had to confront legions of sceptical analysts and fund managers. "I was apprehensive when I set out," she said. "I thought I'd find myself in front of all these sharp brains, asking tough questions."

To her surprise, it was not that difficult. Mrs Davis, 41, who is the top ranking female executive in Britain's fastest-growing industry, said she never once found herself backed into a corner. "I actually quite enjoyed the whole thing," she said.

She is back in London now, no doubt thinking about how to put the flotation money to good use. The decisions of "the first lady of cable", as she has become known in the industry, will help to shape Nynex in the multimedia world. She sees the day when a single pipe will deliver telephone, video, data and interactive services into the home.

Mrs Davis is as much respected as liked within the company. She is known as a workaholic who demands exacting performances from her employees and stands by her decisions. You will never find her gossiping. "Some people feel intimidated by the fact that I am a woman," she said, noting that female executives are relatively scarce in Britain compared with America.

Allen Saunders, executive director of corporate communications, said: "People here are somewhat in awe of her. If she believes in something, she's like a terrier; she just won't let go." They are all the more impressed because she has absolutely no business training. Born in Southampton, she seems to have inherited her professional drive and sense of adventure from her father, the late Philip Feberdy, an explorer who conducted surveys of native populations in British Guyana and elsewhere in South America for the British Government. "He's got a species of hat named after him somewhere," said Mrs Davis.

As a teenager, she became interested in the stage and directed and produced plays during her years at University College London while reading English literature. Upon graduation in 1974, she was at a loose end. "Career advice then was absolutely primitive. I had no idea what to do, so I went travelling." She and five friends bought a 1953 ex-Army ambulance and thundered around North Africa for nine months. When she returned, she fell into journalism, amazed that she could receive a cheque for asking the right questions and scribbling down the answers. Her career as an editor of specialist magazines such as *Hi-Fi Choice* and *Video & Film International* sparked her interest in the technology of communications and the possibilities of what has become known as the "wired society".

She left journalism and became a



We'll take Manhattan: Sally Davis prepares to join her colleagues on the Nynex roadshow, courting investors for the company's New York flotation

communications consultant. In 1983, she joined the then fledgling Mercury Communications as employee number 106 and went on to examine and develop businesses ranging from video conferencing to telex services. Five years later, she left in a huff because she thought Mercury was heading in the wrong direction. Indeed, Mercury unveiled a radical restructuring late last year.

She landed at Cable London, where she became managing director. "Cable struck me as the future. I believed in the convergence of multimedia," she said. Less than three years later, she found herself out of a job because one of the company's shareholders was disappointed with the cable penetration rates. "I got fired and it was devastating," she said.

So she formed a consultancy, Davis Associates, which caught the attention of the American and Canadian cable companies that arrived in the early 1990s with

the intention of spending £10 billion over the next decade to build Britain's cable franchises. Among other things, she negotiated the landmark regulatory agreement that allowed the cable operators to connect their telephony systems, the fastest-growing part of their business, to BT's network.

Nynex snapped her up in 1993, when she was five months pregnant. The company, owned by Nynex Corporation, the main

telephone company in New York state and New England, pays her more than £100,000 a year and pretty much gives her free rein to plot the company's role on the information superhighway.

With a young child and a 60-hour-plus working week, Mrs Davis does not have a lot of time to put her feet up. Because she is a successful woman executive, she has become something of a celebrity on the industrial speaking circuit. Next week,

she will give a speech about the future of the cable industry to a group called Women in Cable UK.

She plays golf once in a while, holds dinner parties at her house in Wimbledon and enjoys expensive restaurants such as Chez Nico and the Savoy Grill. But mostly she loves to work. "I like rolling up my sleeves and making decisions," she said. "There is no greater satisfaction than building a business."

How the history of Lloyd's was traced back to Adam

An upwardly mobile Colin Narbrough finds 18th century beauty in a 1980s icon

The troubles that have beset the Lloyd's of London insurance market in recent years have given David Rowland, the chairman, scant opportunity to show off some of the lesser-known delights of his post-modern City premises in Lime Street.

The architectural masterpiece of Richard Rogers, built in 1986, has had praise heaped upon it from around the world. But given the market's multibillion-pound losses in recent years the vast atrium has understandably been likened by commentators to a bottomless pit. The *Lutine* bell, housed in an ornate rostrum on the atrium floor, also evokes thoughts of gloom and doom. It was salvaged from the wreck of the *HMS Lutine*, the loss of which in 1799 may have cost underwriters more than £1 million.

Yet, pleasant surprises are

to be found. After ascending to the eleventh floor in a see-through lift, entering the Adam Room is a stunning experience. From the late-20th century, you step straight into the 1760s.

The magnificent room, designed by Robert Adam, the Scottish architect, was not part of the original Lloyd's, which celebrated its tercentenary in 1988, but was designed and built as the dining room of Bowood House, Wiltshire, for the first Earl of Shelburne.

Today, the room, which can be hired by underwriters for anything from a cocktail party to a six-course banquet, has a 36ft George III mahogany table as its centrepiece. The chandeliers come from White Lodge in Richmond

Park and were once owned by the Queen Mother.

The marble fireplace, from the original Adam room, was acquired by Thomas Carter. The early 18th century bracket clock on the mantelpiece is a Joseph Williamson. Naval paintings adorn the walls, but the choice has clearly avoided anything that might suggest an insurance loss.

So what is an elegant early piece of Adam doing in so elevated a situation? The answer is that Lloyd's and Adam go back a long way. It appears that the architect was commissioned to produce a design for the "New Lloyd's Coffee House" at Pope's Head Alley in 1769.

Under the leadership of John Julius Angerstein, Lloyd's left the coffee house in

1774 and leased more businesslike premises in the Royal Exchange at Cornhill.

Adam was persuaded by Sir George Colbrook, a Lombard Street banker, to take an interest in Lloyd's. Plans were produced for alterations to both premises. For some reason, the architect's work was never executed. Records from 1774 show, however, that Lloyd's paid Adam £150 for his services. The drawings survive.

But the link with Adam was not forgotten. When Lloyd's put up its then new building in Lime Street in the late 1950s, Terence Heysham, the architect, had the idea of including the Adam room from Bowood House, which was being largely demolished at the time. The room was duly acquired by Lloyd's at auction and shipped off to Lime Street under the supervision of George Jackson & Sons, the firm that had installed it at Bowood.

The dimensions of the 1950s building sadly proved too small for the plasterwork and ceiling to be included when the room was reassembled. So the Adam plasterwork was stored in a vestibule.

Only when the Rogers edifice opened in 1986 was it possible for the Adam Room to be put back together in its glorious entirety. The space between storeys was still too tight, so it now rises through two floors.

Adam would doubtless be pleased to know that even as Lloyd's very existence might be under threat, his oeuvre of two centuries ago remains in prime condition.



Eleventh heaven: Russell Barclay, a member of Lloyd's livery staff, in the Adam Room



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares and bonds come down with a bump

SHARE prices and government bonds came down to earth with a bump as the long-awaited correction finally materialised.

Cills suffered losses stretching to more than £2 in places, while the equity market saw more than £8 billion wiped from share values as worries about growing inflationary pressures came back to haunt investors.

The FT-SE 100 index drifted steadily lower throughout the day in thin trading. Any attempt at a late rally was finally killed off by an opening fall of 40 points in the Dow Jones Average on Wall Street.

This followed publication of the latest US producer prices, showing them at their highest level for more than two years. As a result, the index ended the session 43.1 down at 3,337.7 with less than 600 million shares traded.

Investors in London shrugged off the latest economic news from America and continued to concentrate on growing inflationary pressures as highlighted by Thursday's CBI trends survey. The fear is this could lead to higher interest rates this summer.

Many brokers had been anticipating a correction during the past few days, but the speed with which it was completed surprised even them. They said last night that further falls might be in store on Monday after investors have had time to ponder this week's economic news.

All eyes remained focused on Zeneva after Thursday's speculative flurry that saw the price climb 75p in a fast market as talk of a bid from Roche, of Switzerland, gathered pace. The price held up reasonably well yesterday although some profit-taking was inevitable. It finished the session 39p lower at £10.39 on lower turnover of 3.1 million shares.

If there is a bidder out there, it was refusing to break cover. But as brokers pointed out, whatever the outcome, Zeneva shares have enjoyed a spectacular re-rating, which must be good news for shareholders.

First-time trading in shares of Nynex Cable Communications was subdued after the price was fixed at 137p. The shares ended the session at 137p as a total of 25.5 million changed hands.

Kleinwort Benson stood out with a rise of 22p to 688p as speculation about a bid for the company was revived. By the



BAA, the airport operator, saw passenger traffic grow

close of business less than 1 million shares had changed. Once again there is talk of an imminent bid from one of the big German banks, Dresdner or Deutsche Bank. A figure of 850p a share continues to be bandied around, which would value the company at £1.4 billion.

Royal Insurance, which celebrates its 150th anniversary

New York selling of shares in Philip Morris, the US tobacco group, hit BAT Industries, down 15p at 497p. Press reports alleged that PM conducted tests proving nicotine was habit-forming. This might affect its fight to prevent tobacco being regulated as a drug. It is feared further costly court cases could follow.

ry this month, fell 13p to 316p, stretching the loss on the week to 27p. The weakness has been prompted by the decision of Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, to remove the shares from its list of top 200 recommendations. Not the best birthday present Royal may have wished for.

Tate & Lyle was a weak market, falling 9p to 443p amid claims that there is a surplus of sugar on world markets. Brokers say sugar

craps have exceeded even the most optimistic forecasts. There was also talk yesterday that James Capel, the broker, had turned cautious of the shares.

VSEL jumped 16p to £21.56 as GEC surprised everyone around, which would value the company at £2.4 billion after raising its cash offer for the company to £21.50. Specu-

lators are now waiting to see if British Aerospace, unchanged at 527p, will increase its all-share offer worth £17.3p. Most brokers privately take the view that GEC's offer will prove to be a knockout blow. GEC was 2p closer at 320p.

Confirmation that margins remain under pressure left Tesco 24p cheaper at 297p. Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that same-store sales were continuing to grow

at more than 7 per cent in the current year, but added that gross margins remained lower than for the same period last year.

Hard on the heels of Monday's full-year figures came news from BAA Group, the airport operator, that passenger traffic continues to grow. The number of passengers passing through its eight regional airports last month grew 7.1 per cent to 7.8 million. The news made little impression on the shares, which closed 4p lower at 484p.

Charter rounded off a reasonably impressive performance this week, forming a further 2p to 920p, for a rise on the week of 29p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, increased its pre-tax profit forecast for the current year after a visit to the company.

Welsh Water rose 18p to 693p after weighing in with full-year figures showing pre-tax profits 3.3 per cent up at £148.9 million and a 33.5 per cent rise in the payout to 33.9p.

Park Food dropped 19p to 91p in spite of a 16 per cent increase in pre-tax profits last year to £13.7 million and a 20 per cent rise in the dividend. But the group revealed it had suffered a £1 million downturn in its wholesale food hamper operation.

GILT-EDGED: Prices followed the German bund lower in early trading as it fell below its support levels.

The losses were accelerated by renewed weakness among US Treasury bonds as reports circulated that a Japanese institution was boycotting the T-Bond in retaliation to trade sanctions. This was later denied, but the damage to sentiment in London had already been completed, with losses at the longer end exceeding £2 in places.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt plunged £117/16 to £105/1/16 as the number of contracts completed grew to 82,000. Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 was left nursing a fall of £117/16 to £98/1/16, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost £17/16 to £102/1/16.

NEW YORK: Shares were sharply lower in early trading as bonds fell and consolidation continued before publication of economic data next week. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 30.78 points to 4,427.79.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	4,427.79 (-30.78)
Dow Jones	4,427.79 (-30.78)
S&P Composite	528.31 (-4.06)
Tokyo	15,046.18 (-398.12)
Nikkei Average	15,046.18 (-398.12)
Hong Kong	10,877.62 (-125.18)
Amsterdam	432.47 (-4.15)
BOE Index	432.47 (-4.15)
Sydney	1,984.5 (-13.7)
Frankfurt	2,121.75 (-9.22)
DAX	2,121.75 (-9.22)
Singapore	2,150.44 (-15.08)
Brussels	7,587.30 (-23.98)
General	7,587.30 (-23.98)
Paris	1,897.02 (-94.17)
CAC-40	1,897.02 (-94.17)
Zurich	658.40 (-3.30)
SWX	658.40 (-3.30)
London	2,512.4 (-33.5)
FT 100	2,512.4 (-33.5)
FT 250	3,577.9 (-43.1)
FT 350	3,577.9 (-43.1)
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FT 9,950	1,602.2 (-18.5)
FT 10,000	1,602.2 (-18.5)

RECENT ISSUES

Brit Aero Cap Utd p/p	678	-2
Finbury Worldwide	101	...
Gradus Group (122)	126	...
Gus Carter (80)	80	-2
Ind Energy	112	...
Langford Foods (3)	3	...
NatWest Irish Smir (100)	95	...
NatWest Irish Smir Wts	31	...
Nynex CableComms	137	...
Oxyx India	650	...
Oxyx India Wts	250	...
Silk Industries (125)	140	...

MAJOR CHANGES

Daniels (S) n/p (34)	20	-5
David Brown n/p (205)	27	...
Laser-Scan n/p (10)	2	-1
Prime People n/p (4)	1	...
Scott-New Non-Int n/p	39	...

FALLS

HSC	818p (-84p)
Lloyds	645p (-9p)
Eurochem Utd	178p (-7p)
BOC	788p (-10p)
GLS	618p (-14p)
ICI	785p (-11p)
CRA	358p (-8p)
Glenview	734p (-15p)
Br Land	422p (-12p)
MEPC	405p (-12p)
Park Foods	91p (-18p)
Elam	154p (-22p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Welsh wizardry

AT privatisation, Welsh Water was allowed the most financial slack and, perhaps, the most generous green dividend. Since management proved to be as efficient as at other water groups, it is no wonder that institutional investors have been putting the company under intense pressure to cough up cash and adopt a more cost-efficient capital structure. But the company is also more conscious of its public image than most, since water has long been deeply political in Wales.

The board has squared this circle ingeniously by offering shareholders £132 million of preference stock, worth about 90p per share but only offering cash to customers. The only downside of this scheme is that it does not help on corporation tax. The ordinary shares would also be consolidated by one sixth to enhance earnings per share, but raising the

base dividend by a third offsets that and more. Cover will still be 2.7 times and dividend potential good, though not the highest under the 7p to 702p, then slipped half-way back. The market's first thoughts were better. At 693p, and assuming preference terms are set to make them worth par, the new ordinary would effectively yield 5.85 per cent in dividend and sell at 8.2 times 1994-95 earnings, which were depressed by a setback at the Acer civil engineering design subsidiary after road-building cuts.

Profit-taking yesterday doubtless reflected anxiety that Welsh, whose shares stand higher in the sector than any save bid-embolled Northumbria, would be vulnerable to any political rethink. Management has at least done its best to look responsible.

RJB Mining

YESTERDAY'S news from the appeal court that RJB Mining has been granted a stay of execution from industrial action by the NUM came too late for the market, but the company's shares have been sliding as concern over the dispute has risen and are now 9 per cent off their 430p peak.

The damage to RJB from a series of one-day NUM strikes will be limited, but real. The union accounts for barely a quarter of the group's employees, and less than 40 per cent of deep shaft miners. But it has a majority of workers in pits which account for 60,000 tonnes of coal a day, more than a third of RJB's total output.

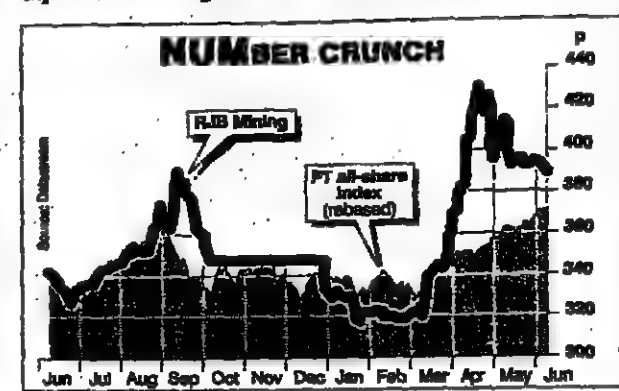
RJB can minimise the impact of lost production by increasing output on other days and at other pits and

raising reserves, but strikes will still slow the key process of repaying debts.

Provided the strike does not escalate however, RJB's finances look robust enough to weather it. The group has been paying down the debts it took on last year when it bought the British Coal operations more rapidly than expected. The original £431

million facility has already been cut to an estimated £270 million, thanks to a 6 per cent rise in coal prices.

RJB was bound to run into conflict with the NUM when it took over the pits. But provided RJB does not needlessly antagonise its new employees, the shares should recover their poise once a settlement is found.



Nynex



INVESTOR PERKS 30

Does the small shareholder get a fair deal?

WEEKEND MONEY

ON THE ROAD 33

Car insurance designed with women in mind



Tax breaks get negative reception

As part of a focus on housing, Sara McConnell seeks expert views on tackling negative equity

Government plans to give tax breaks to beleaguered homeowners with negative equity were denounced this week as "pretty mad", "unthought out" and "doomed to failure" by housing and tax experts.

But other tax breaks could help to give the housing market a much needed kickstart. Calculations done for *The Times* by the Halifax Building Society show that giving first-time buyers relief on the first £60,000 of their loan instead of the first £30,000 could reduce monthly outgoings on a £50,000 loan by £20.86 a month and on a £60,000 loan by £31.30 a month. The abolition of stamp duty would save £600 on a £50,000 loan. First-time buyer tax breaks are favoured by lenders because

they are seen as the key to unjamming a blocked market.

More urgently, though, ministers should drop their proposals to restrict income support payments to out-of-work or ill borrowers. If they are serious about getting the housing market back on its feet again, the housing industry argues, but realising that the reduction in income support seems now inevitable, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) will next week call for the introduction of a single safety net for tenants and borrowers on low incomes. Under the existing system, low earning borrowers get no help with housing costs while tenants do. These changes, coupled with stable interest rates, will do more to bring back long-term confidence than tax breaks, which are seen as a

short-term bid for political popularity.

Chris Giles, of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, said: "Our view is that most of these things [the Government's tax plans] are pretty mad. Most of them sound unthought out and suggested mainly for political reasons."

Rob Thomas, housing analyst at UBS, the broker, said it was "bizarre" that the Government was trying to save £200 million a year (its own figures), on the one hand, by cutting income support, while, at the same time, putting forward the possibility of spending millions of pounds on tax breaks.

John Major has instructed his advisers in the Downing Street Policy Unit to investigate new ways of getting back homeowners' confidence. Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, has come under pressure to rethink his proposals to deny state help for nine months to borrowers taking out loans after October 2.

The CML has repeatedly given warning that this will lead to more repossessions. But Mr Lilley seemed this weekend almost certain to emerge victorious from the fight.

So if the Government goes ahead with its tax proposals rather than holding back on income support cuts, how palatable are the options?

HELP FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Cost to Treasury: doubling the Miras ceiling to £60,000 would cost £60 million in 1995-96 rising to £180 million in 1999-2000, calculates the Woolwich. Relief for all buyers is expected to cost £2.9 billion in 1995-96.

At the moment, all buyers receive tax relief at 15 per cent on the first £30,000 of the loan that attracts interest. The Chancellor of the Exchequer could announce in the Budget that first-time buyers would qualify for relief on the first £60,000. This would save borrowers with £60,000 loans £31.30 a month. Raising the rate of relief to 25 per cent would save £73.05.

What the experts think:

Peter White, chief executive, Alliance & Leicester: "Increase tax relief for first-time buyers. This is the way to restart the market and that is the only way people are going to get out of negative equity."

Gary Marsh, housing economist, the Halifax: "Some help for first-time buyers would be my second choice [after cutting stamp duty]. But there is a problem in defining who is a first-time buyer."

Peter Robinson, chief executive, the Woolwich: "Doubling Miras to £60,000 for up to five years for anyone buying within a year would have a significant effect on the market."

ABOLISHING STAMP DUTY

Cost to Treasury of abolishing: £700 million a year (1993-94).

Anyone buying a house for £60,000 or more pays stamp duty at 1 per cent when they complete the purchase. There is no stamp duty on purchases of cheaper properties.

Abolishing stamp duty immediately cuts the upfront cost of buying by at least £600, but as the average mortgage is only £50,000, most people would feel no benefit. A previous attempt to revive the housing market by suspending the duty for two months in July and August 1992 had no effect.

What the experts think:

Halifax: "Our general view is to avoid a quick fix but as part of a longer-term strategy cutting stamp duty would be the first choice."

Brian Davis, chief executive, Nationwide: "Stamp duty does have an effect on housing transactions. But the key is to engender general enthusiasm for buying and the general noises from the Government do not engender enthusiasm."

Alliance & Leicester: "People are more interested in cutting the cost of running the mortgage. There are enough discounts and deals already to cut the upfront cost."

ESCAPE FROM THE TRAP

Cost: Maybe £500 million. It will depend on how many people want to move and take negative equity tax relief. There are 1.4 million borrowers with loans worth more than their property. Average negative equity is £5,000.

Borrowers wanting to move could set the difference between their mortgage and their house value as a loss against income tax up to a maximum. It is unclear whether the value would be the asking or selling price.

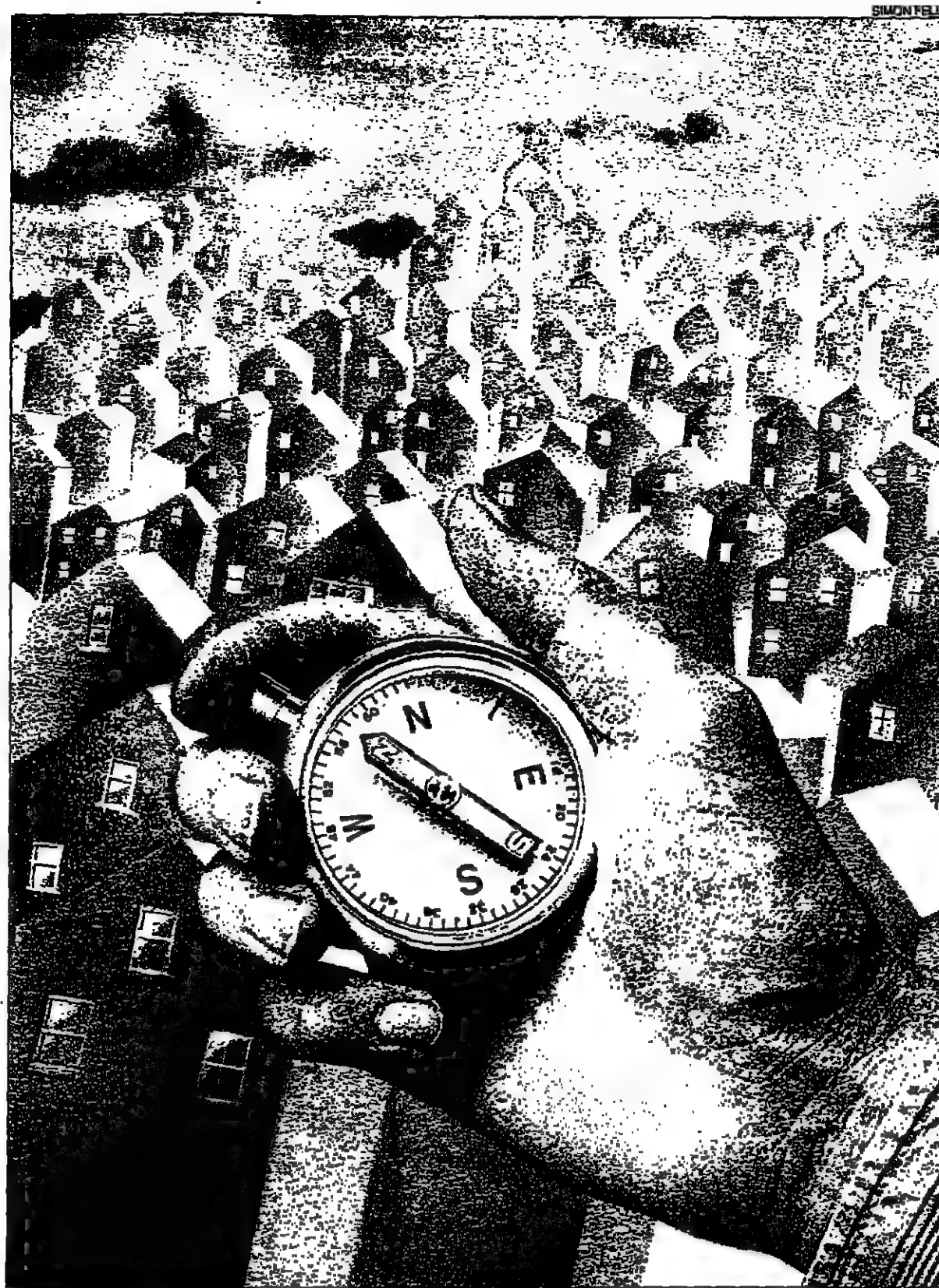
This was the least popular option among those canvassed. They pointed to the difficulty of establishing a fair, fraud-proof way of assessing relief and keeping track of negative equity against house prices. As homeowners do not have to pay CGT on the sale of their main home, being able to realise losses to set against tax would be an anomaly.

What the experts think: IFS: "This is alien to the way our tax system works. And how could you stop people selling their houses, getting the tax relief and then buying them back?"

UBS: "Any measures specifically to help negative equity are doomed to failure and would be wrong. How can you discriminate between cash buyers with negative equity and people with mortgages?"

Halifax: "Negative equity relief wouldn't be on my list of solutions. From a housing point of view, as long as people have a good payment record, they can move and transfer negative equity."

Woolwich: "Negative equity is still a problem but house prices need to rise to solve it. How would the logistics of a negative equity tax break work? It would be very expensive and open to abuse."



Which direction should tax breaks take? The path could be rocky, but experts want pointers to revive the market

Rates fall but watch penalties

The cost of fixed-rate loans fell this week as lenders rushed to pass on the benefits of cheaper money market funds to borrowers. Large lenders, including the Woolwich and the National & Provincial, cut their fixed rates by about half a percentage point in a further bid to attract buyers in a stagnant market, with specially low rates for first-time buyers. More lenders will certainly follow. Five-year fixed rates are now between 8 and 8.5 per cent and two-year fixed rates between 5 and 6 per cent.

But independent advisers are warning buyers to make sure that they understand the stringent penalties attached to fixed-rate loans. Lenders desperate to keep borrowers from looking elsewhere for a good deal now extend redemption penalties far beyond the end of the fixed term. Borrowers taking advantage of the Woolwich's new first-time buyer rate of 5.49 per cent for two years to June 1997 will actually face a penalty of six months' gross interest if they redeem the loan before June 1999. In the two years between the end of the fixed-rate term and the end of the penalty term, borrowers will revert to the society's prevailing current variable rate, but they will be penalised if they move their mortgage elsewhere.

Simon Tyler, marketing director at Chase de Vere Mortgage Management, a broker based in London, said: "People should make sure even before they pay the valuation fee exactly what the penalties will be."

He admitted that borrowers taking Chase de Vere's two-year fixed rate of 6.99 per cent including remortgaging costs would be penalised if they went to another lender less than four years after taking out the loan.

Lenders argue that, without the extra penalties, rates would be higher. Intense competition for borrowers has pushed them into offering fixed rates at a loss and they claim that the only way of covering themselves is to extend penalties.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Cash now, risk later

First the electricity groups, now the water companies. Suddenly, regional utilities seem to be awash with money, just after their regulators supposedly cut prices to the bone. Most have been able to give big boosts to shareholders and promise rebates, price cuts or extra services to customers.

Regulators are not fools, whatever critics may say. Rather, the rules of the game have changed. The signal for that was not the price reviews but a much less dramatic event: the expiry of golden shares that prevented takeover bids.

Threat of takeover is one of the strongest incentives for managers to perform. At least, that is what those who make money from takeover bids claim along with their academic mouthpieces. In the 1980s, it became the common view. So ministers thought it a good idea to expose most privatised companies to this "market discipline", once they had time to adjust to the ways of the private sector. Ministers made no distinction between companies in competitive industries and utilities with a degree of monopoly — virtually complete local monopoly in the case of water firms. But the threat of takeover has different effects in these cases.

In a competitive market, pressure on management may be raised, but consumers should not be affected because they can shop around. If a monopoly comes under pressure from the big institutional shareholders that control its destiny, then their interests take precedence over consumers — and small investors. Several water utilities, and electricity companies such as Seaboard,



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

are giving customers extra benefits or price rebates beyond those demanded by their respective regulators. Everyone seems to be benefiting. What is actually happening, however, is that the boards are taking more financial risks than their regulators assumed was prudent.

This is particularly the case in water. In essence, companies think they can borrow far more than price limits set by the regulator assume. If they can do this, they can give special handouts to shareholders and cut their financing costs. The interest cost of borrowing is fully tax deductible. But water companies will soon run out of other allowances against corporation tax on profits, raising the cost of share capital.

If they can borrow much more, however, customers need pay far less. On privatisation, the Government reckoned £30 billion of investment in water was too much for shareholders to finance by borrowing, so most of it had to be paid for upfront, in cash charges,

by consumers. If companies can borrow twice as much as assumed, charges to consumers could be markedly lower. The regulator set the latest price limits on a completely different basis, but he still worried about gearing becoming too high, in case interest rates rose sharply, as in the late 1980s. That could, he thought, endanger companies' financial stability. Boards are now prepared to take this risk to satisfy the demands of City shareholders for cash now.

These changes are benefiting for private investors. Most of us bought utility shares in the hope of a good return that grew modestly and steadily in real terms, but was utterly safe. If dividends rose slightly faster than average incomes, most of us would be happy. The threat of takeover has boosted short-term returns enormously, but increased risk.

Nor of the least of these risks is political. If utilities demonstrate that they have spare money that they do not need, for instance by share buybacks or special dividends, others will eye it and lick their lips. The regional electricity companies have paid out about £1.3 billion and rising. Water companies may end up paying out even more. They would have little defence against, say, a £3 billion selective levy imposed by Kenneth Clarke, let alone any future Labour Chancellor. Institutional shareholders can take their cut... and flee. Many long-term private shareholders will find their staid, low-risk investments are not what they thought — or what they wanted.

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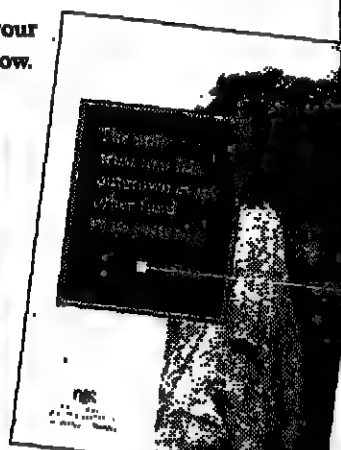
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Housing focus: assurance and insurance

When letting is an option

Ian Hunter on
a popular way
to escape from
the depressed
housing market

Liz Mayer, formerly a partner in a firm of City of London solicitors, has decided to go to study for two years in Canada. Rather than sell her north London flat she has decided to let it — an option taken by many owners trapped in a depressed housing market.

Mortgage deeds usually state that a property can be sub-let only with the lender's permission. Unauthorised sub-letting normally provides the lender with the option of cancelling the loan, coupled with the right to sell the property to recover its money.

Most lenders charge an administration fee for considering borrowers' requests for permission to sub-let. Usually lenders want to satisfy themselves that the letting will not affect their ability to get possession of the property if the borrower defaults on the mortgage repayments. The lender will usually require the tenant to agree to record its right to possession if the borrower defaults.

Most landlords such as Ms Mayer usually grant their tenants an agreement in the form of an assured shorthold tenancy. These give the tenant a minimum of six months' security of tenure. However, at any time after the first four months of the tenancy agreement, the tenant can be asked to leave on two months' notice.

Landlords should avoid granting tenants possession until the documentation has been prepared and completed. The tax regime governing rental income is complex. Those working abroad normally lose their Miras relief. However, there is an Inland Revenue concession that allows relief to continue in respect of temporary absences of up to a year, or up to four years where the taxpayer is required to work away from



Liz Mayer is letting her flat while she studies for two years in Canada

home. The advantage with Miras relief is that it can be set against income from any source. However, those with larger mortgages are better off setting the rental income against mortgage interest payments, rather than claiming Miras relief. Interest payments on the entire property loan (not just the first £30,000) can be set against tax payable on rental income as long as the property is let for at least 26 weeks in each year.

It is also possible to set against tax expenses such as gas, electricity, insurance premiums, maintenance and repair costs, although not improvements. Any unused tax relief can be carried forward to the next tax year.

The Revenue advises landlords to "keep a careful note of rents received and possible receipts for expenses".

In addition, the Revenue provides a "rent a room" scheme under which land-

lords, provided they satisfy certain requirements, are entitled to receive up to the first £3,250 free of tax. However, under the scheme, expenses cannot be claimed. The scheme is designed primarily for those taking in lodgers.

Those letting their homes for prolonged periods should be aware that they risk having to pay capital gains tax on a proportion of the profit made on any subsequent sale of the property. Relief from CGT is available only on the sale of a property. If it is the owner's "only or main residence". This relief will be reduced if during a period of ownership it is let for large proportions of time. Tenants in the United Kingdom who pay rent directly to non-resident landlords must, by law, withhold basic rate tax on the rent paid. The tenants should then pay the tax to the Revenue. This applies even if

the rent is paid into a UK bank account. This can be avoided by appointing an agent.

Rent can be paid to a duly authorised agent without deduction. The agent will be accountable for the payment of the tax on the rent received on behalf of the landlord.

A professional agent is likely to seek an indemnity from the landlord. An inventory should be prepared of the property's contents. It may also be useful to take photographs of the property before the tenancy begins. This will help to minimise arguments as to who is responsible for any restorative work necessary at the end of the tenancy. One option is to agree at the outset that the tenant will be responsible for cleaning and redecorating the property.

The tenant should also be asked to provide a deposit as a form of insurance against any loss or damage.

Lenders in a muddle over MIG

While the Government hunts for a piece of sticking plaster with which to cover the negative equity gap, the stream of homeowners making his way to the self-styled negative equity buster, Union Finance, is growing all the time.

There is still no sign that lenders are making real efforts to test Union Finance's contention that a special type of insurance policy, a mortgage indemnity guarantee (MIG), taken out by lenders on behalf of borrowers, will wipe out negative equity and repay mortgage debts.

Instead, there is strong — albeit largely anecdotal — evidence that court cases to recover mortgage debts from Union Finance clients are being abandoned before judgment can be pronounced because the lender suddenly decides to write off a large part of the debt.

Union Finance has attracted an enormous amount of publicity by telling people with negative equity that they are no longer liable for the debt if they hand in their keys and walk away. This "solution" is potentially extremely risky and is in no way recommended by Weekend Money, not least because it has never been proven in a court of law. However, neither has the unanimous contention of lenders and insurers that Union Finance is talking rubbish.

When the Woolwich Building Society started legal proceedings to recover £20,000 from a borrower (and Union Finance client), it made no bones about its determination to secure a legal judgment that would clear up any misunderstandings once and for all. "We want a trial to clear the air," it told Weekend Money, earlier this year. "We are doing this as a matter of principle." This resolution app-

Liz Dolan reports on
the homeowners
looking to bridge the
negative equity gap



Judkins: questions on disclosure

ears to have lasted only as long as it took the judge to demand that the Woolwich release the full MIG contract to the other side. The society promptly said it would do so only under strict conditions. Gadsby Wickes, the borrower's solicitor, refused, and the Woolwich immediately offered to waive £13,000 of the total debt — the portion covered by the MIG contract,

underwritten by Legal & General. The offer was turned down, however, and the society has been forced to accede to the judge's ruling. A date for the full hearing has yet to be announced. The building society refuses to expand on its reasons for making the offer. It will say only that the other side's response was "unsatisfactory", and that it cannot comment further "for reasons of confidentiality".

A rival building society chief said privately this week: "This sort of behaviour does nothing to help the rest of us." Paul Judkins, a solicitor handling a number of such cases, wrote recently in the *Law Society Gazette*: "What reasons can a lender have for not disclosing this policy? We suggest some possibilities: the MIG policy covers the borrower; there is no policy; or the policy is not in accordance with the mortgage offer."

The second of these suggestions refers to the fact that some lenders took MIG premiums from borrowers during the housing boom, but did not actually obtain cover from an insurer. Criticism of this practice was this week dismissed as "stupid" by a spokeswoman for the Council of Mortgage Lenders. These payments were not "premiums", she said. Lenders were simply charging borrowers a fee to offer any additional risk involved in providing a mortgage.

But, a spokesman for the Building Societies Commission, the industry regulator, said he thought the BSC might "have difficulties" if a building society had taken insurance premiums from borrowers in the late 1980s and early 1990s without negotiating any sort of insurance contract with an insurance company. Societies were not allowed to set up their own insurance companies before May 1993.

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Skipton move becomes a Major issue

Until this Thursday, the Skipton Building Society's greatest claim to fame was the Prince of Wales's criticism of its former head office. The building, off Skipton high street, was viewed by the heir to the throne as a carbuncle on the face of a fair Dees town.

When the society moved up the road into something more to his traditional tastes, he declined to cut the ribbon at the opening. Norman Lamont, then the Chancellor, did the job instead.

After these events, the Skipton returned to its normal role as the sixteenth largest society. But this week, John Major led the 142-year-old society once more into the limelight. In the Commons, the Prime Minister held up the Skipton as an example to its fellows for its decision to offer free unemployment cover to almost all its 55,000 borrowers. Mr Major said the policy was



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

a high quality comprehensive system of mortgage insurance, the perfect replacement for income support for homebuyers that the Government proposes to reduce.

The effects of the Skipton's move will be far reaching, influencing not only the angry debate between ministers and lenders over the income support proposals.

The mortgage industry has pointed out that millions of homebuyers would be ineligible for cover because they were self-employed, or in short-term contract work. But

although some such workers are excluded under the terms of the Skipton policy, building societies that had hoped to postpone the implementation of the proposals, now concede that they can only argue over detail.

They now hope to persuade ministers that a concession made to the self-employed and contract workers who cannot get cover, allowing them to continue to rely on the state safety net.

It could be that the Skipton deal presages a new highly selective mortgage market, in

which those with large deposits and secure jobs will be the only favoured customers.

But the need for lenders to sell loans to the greatest number of people should counter such a development. Having realised that the new income support limits are now an inevitability, the lenders will be turning their attention from Whitehall to the insurers. They will be demanding policies with the widest possible scope.

'Cheap' cover

FOR those who qualify for mortgage protection insurance but will grudgingly pay the premiums, seeing them (quite rightly) as yet another tax, the Skipton deal is good news. Anxious for a slice of the extra business that should shortly be available, credit protection insurers are dropping their premium rates.

Free unemployment cover

will be given to Skipton borrowers (with certain exceptions) with effect from October. But those who prefer a policy protecting their payments against unemployment, plus sickness and accident can get cheap rate cover. The rate is £4.50 per £100 of monthly payment. Although this still means an extra £20.25 a month for someone with a £60,000 mortgage, rates of £7 per £100 worth of payment have recently been quoted elsewhere.

However, aspiring Skipton borrowers attracted by this offer should realise that it will not last for ever. Also, that the description "free" is not entirely accurate. The society says that it is bearing the £2 million a year cost itself. However, as a building society is a mutual organisation which belongs to its members, the cost is more correctly being met by the customers.

The Government faces heavy criticism over the pensions mis-selling issue, says Liz Dolan

Insurers square up for a scrap

A head of steam is building among members of the insurance industry, angered by the Government's continuing refusal to accept any blame for the pensions mis-selling debacle of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

As pensions providers and financial advisers sift through hundreds of thousands of case files in an attempt to identify possible victims of bad advice, there are signs that industry chiefs are fast losing patience with what they see as a bad case of ministerial buck-passing.

"It was all very well for the Government to spend a large amount of money on persuading people to take out personal pensions in the late Eighties, but it can't then wash its hands of responsibility for the result," says David Wilkinson, a lawyer acting for a group of professional liability insurers likely to be among the hardest hit by the estimated final bill of up to £2 billion.

"There is at the very least a moral case to answer here," Mr Wilkinson adds. "The

clients we represent, and some we don't, are quite keen to make this point." They are awaiting the findings of several working parties before unleashing a fully-fledged assault, he says.

"From 1988 onwards, the Government was intent on moving pensions out of the public arena and into the private sector. It offered large incentives to people to do so, but it failed to ensure that adequate regulations were in place beforehand. In a commission-based industry, the salesman has only one goal - to sell the product. But guidance notes weren't issued to sales staff until the early 1990s, when most of the problems had already occurred."

While the insurance industry prepares to blast ministers, the GMB union this week turned the screw a notch tighter on the insurance industry. Faced with what it perceives to be an unacceptable level of foot-dragging by pensions providers investigating possible cases of mis-selling,

the union is suing the Prudential, Norwich Union, TSB, Abbey Life, Albany Life, Manufacturers Life and General Portfolio.

"We will hound these companies like terriers until our members have their money back," said John Edmonds, general secretary. "The City has tried to play down the importance of the personal pensions scandal, but ordinary people should not have to suffer a hangover in the Nine-

ties by the binge of the finance companies in the Eighties."

When the Securities and Investments Board first published its damning report on the pensions scandal last October, victims were told that they would have to wait up to two years for compensation, or for the restoration of lost benefits.

The GMB was among several unions to attack the length of time the industry was given to right any wrongs. Bill Day, its pensions officer, said at the

time: "It is not good enough to promise compensation in 1997. These policies were sold quickly and the mess should be resolved quickly."

It is not yet clear how many cases will be handled, for free, by the Personal Investments Authority ombudsman and how many will have to go through the courts. About 350,000 cases are being reviewed automatically, with up to a million more entitled to request an investigation.



Professional liability insurers are likely to be among the hardest hit

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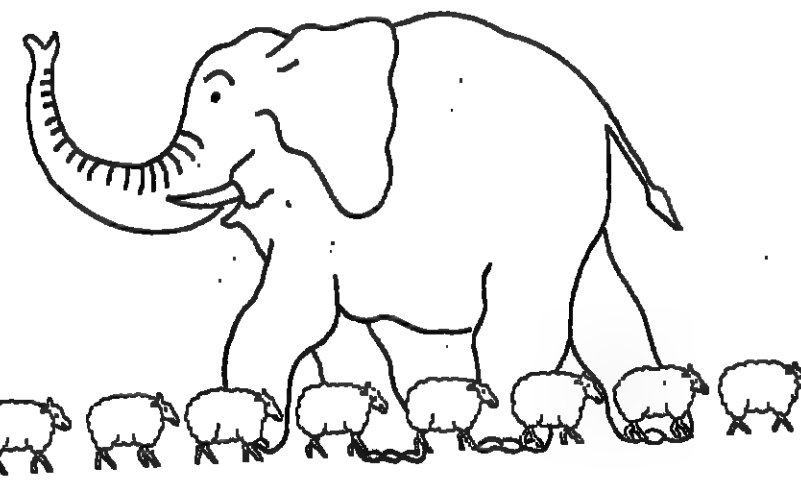
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Caroline Merrell and Morag Preston offer advice to the growing band of mobile phone users

Make the right connections

Mobile phones have ceased to be yuppie toys and have become de rigueur for many from all walks of life. The number of users has risen dramatically over the past year, and the total number of the phones in the UK could reach 18 million by the end of the decade.

This growth is almost inevitably going to create problems for consumers, as more companies try to grab a slice of the action before the market runs out of steam. For the novice, buying a mobile phone has many pitfalls. Perhaps the least important decision is the selection of handset, while the most important is choosing the right tariff from the right network to suit the pattern of your calls. Some tariffs offer

a low rental, but high call charge, while the reverse is true for others.

Most suppliers insist that you sign up for one year, with a notice period of up to three months should you decide to switch networks or discontinue using your mobile, making the right choice at the outset is vital. It is worth remembering that the minimum amount you can pay in rental charges for a mobile phone is £150 annually, assuming you make no calls.

Connection charges vary from about £30 to about £70, monthly rental starts from £10 and rises to more than £100, while the call rate begins at about 3p a minute and rises to 80p. In the UK, there are six incompatible networks from four phone companies. They are the Mercury

One-2-One (Digital), Cellnet (Analogue), Cellnet (Digital), Vodafone (Analogue), Vodafone (Digital) and Orange (Digital).

The key to understanding the market is to appreciate how products are distributed. The companies sell through "service providers" that deal directly with the public or through other high street companies such as Dixons. The two original providers, Vodafone and Cellnet, deal predominantly through service providers while Mercury and Orange deal directly with high street companies. The service providers and dealers are free to charge whatever tariff they like, although all the phone companies have recommended tariffs. The phone companies pay their distribution

channels commission for each subscriber they take on. Figures of between £60 and £150 have been suggested as commission rates, but none of the phone companies was willing to disclose the exact amount, claiming it was commercially sensitive information.

The minimum contract length is usually a year, with three months' termination notice and you may have to pay a fee if you want to move to another tariff or network.

The amount of compensation that you can get if the service goes wrong is usually limited to a year's rental. However, legislation based on an EC directive coming in next month is expected to give more protection.

How to ring the changes



The mobile phone, popular among women out on their own, is a useful safety device. The reassurance of knowing that you are in touch provides peace of mind. For users who intend to make only occasional outgoing calls, Peoples Phone recommends the emergency tariff. Connection costs £23.50, and line rental is £11.74 per month. Calls are billed in whole-minute increments, and cost 76p per minute. If you intend to make more than ten minutes of calls each month, consider the economy tariff. The Carphone Warehouse recommends the Motorola Micro TAC Classic flip phone, connected to the Cellnet lifetime tariff. The package costs £14.99, and line rental is £15 per month. Calls are charged at 50p per minute between 8am and 7pm, Monday to Friday, and 20p per minute at other times. Calls are charged for the first minute, and then at half-minute increments. Call Connections recommends the lifetime for peace of mind package. Connection costs £29.50, and the monthly subscription is £9.99. Calls cost 80p per minute, and are charged for the first minute and then at half-minute increments.



For anyone making a modest number of calls who is also receiving calls, Peoples Phone recommends the urban tariff. Connection costs £47, with line rental at £23.50 per month. Designed for customers in big towns, peak-rate calls cost 15p per minute and 5p per minute off-peak. Calls are half-price from your post-code area, but are more costly in rural areas. The Carphone Warehouse recommends the Motorola MRI, connected to the Orange tariff talk 15. The handset is £99.99 and connection costs £30. Line rental is £15 per month and includes 15 minutes of free airtime. Calls cost 25p per minute between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday, and 12.5p at other times.



Any self-employed person who plans to use a mobile regularly could use the prime-time for frequent users (see the yuppie). Carphone Warehouse recommends the Nokia 101 handset on the Cellnet prime-time tariff, which offers countrywide coverage. The package costs £14.99, and line rental is £25. Calls cost 25p per minute between 8am and 10pm, Monday to Saturday, and 10p at other times. Peoples Phone recommends the London tariff for those who expect to make at least 75 per cent of calls within the M25. Connection costs £47, and monthly line rental is £29.37. Peak-rate calls cost 16p per minute inside the M25 and 53p outside. Off-peak calls cost 12p.



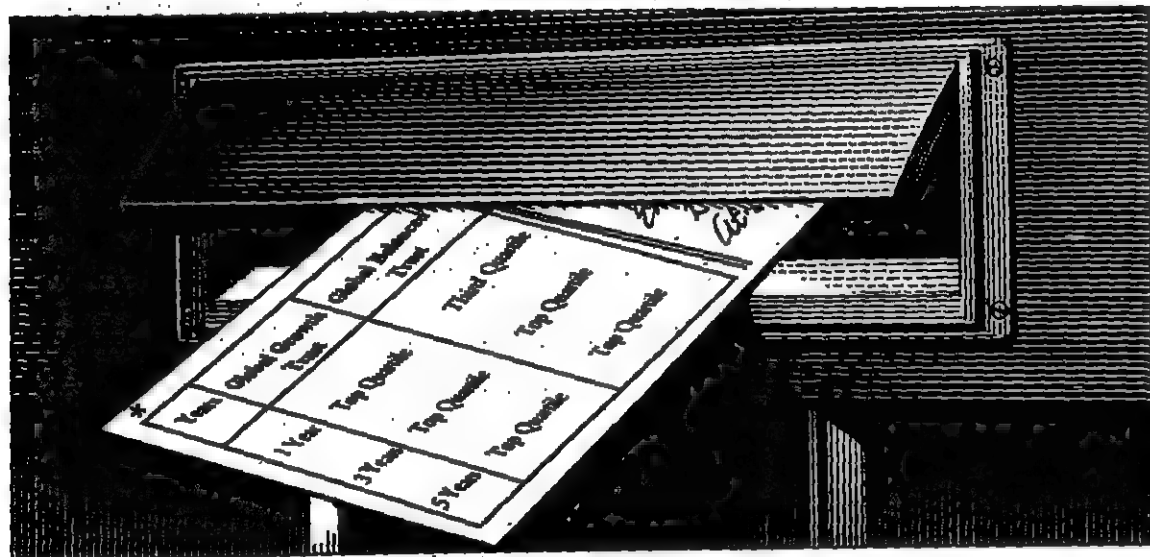
Buy-bye! Professionals could benefit from the Vodafone Business World GSM tariff with the Sharp SG400 handset, according to Carphone Warehouse. At £179.99, the package is suitable for those making lots of calls. Line rental is £25.

Calls cost 25p per minute between 7.30am and 9.30pm, Monday to Saturday, and 10p at other times. Peoples Phone recommends the Budget tariff. Designed for anyone making 20 to 100 minutes of peak-rate calls per month, line rental costs £23.50. Peak-rate calls cost 41p per minute, and 18p off-peak. The £7.50 free-call allowance provides between 20 and 30 minutes of calls a day. Call Connections recommends the prime-time for frequent users package. Connection costs £58.75, and monthly subscription is £29.50. Calls between 8am and 10pm, Monday to Saturday, cost 29p per minute and 12p per minute at other times.



Keep a look out, buying a mobile phone has pitfalls

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Call free 0800 27 27 28

*Microcap: Offer to bid to 1 June 1995. Top Quartile: The top 25% of all funds listed in the relevant fund sector. (Third Quartile: between 51% - 75%). The value of units and the income therefrom may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance.

TO: Templeton Registration Office, Freepost EH2721, 17 Napier Square, Livingston EH54 5BR. Please send me details of the Templeton Global Unit Trusts. TT 10.6.95

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1995	£827,710

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Return this coupon to: Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, PO Box 2, Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9NW. The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. *Calculated by Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd using mid-market prices, net income reinvested, all figures to 31 December 1995 figures to 31/03/95 and **£3,118,311.23 respectively, incl. National 3.5% national insurance, Plan Charges 0.2% commission and 0.5% Govt. Stamp duty. Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the Investment Trusts.



Just like mummy. Many young children have mothers who are dependent on a car to take them to and from school

RAC goes an extra lap

Jokes about deficient women drivers are old enough to have been forgotten. Many insurers now offer discounted rates to women, based on statistics proving that they are safer drivers than their male counterparts (see box).

At most insurers, women can now expect to pay lower premiums. But the RAC has gone an extra lap, launching an insurance policy designed specifically for female motorists. The policy offers enhanced benefits for mothers, such as cover for damage to child safety seats. Loss or damage to carry-cots and prams is also covered.

Although the RAC aims to keep its rates competitive, the additional benefits are reflected in the final price, and the RAC's premiums can, at first glance, appear somewhat higher than those of other insurers. But its policy does allow for an unrestricted number of named drivers, provided they are female. And there is room for one additional named male, as long as he is a husband or live-in-partner.

Motoring organisation offers car insurance for women. Morag Preston investigates

Nigel Richardson, motor schemes manager for the RAC, says: "Most insurers think that motorists only seek the cheapest possible quotation irrespective of policy cover. The RAC believes that the discerning female motorist is looking for a competitive product that offers balance of price, service, security and cover."

Many women drivers have young children, and are dependent on a car to transport their children to and from school. In the event of the insured vehicle being off the road due to an accident, the RAC will cover the taxi fare for the journey. Should the children be taken to

hospital as the result of a car accident, the policy provides cover for accommodation expenses to allow parents to stay near by if necessary.

Policy holders can benefit from RAC First Response, the 24-hour claims assistance service which arranges roadside recovery, alternative transport or overnight accommodation. And in the event of an accident, the RAC will get in touch with family or friends.

The Norwich Union no longer offers its Lady Motoring policy, but the extra benefits, such as breakdown cover, are now available on the company's standard policy. Club Insurance, a spokesman said: "We have introduced new charge rates which could be advantageous to women drivers."

In conjunction with a panel of insurers, the AA offers five specific lady driver policies, including Young Lady and Lady Drive-It-Policy. The following case studies, however, highlight that a specific policy does not always offer the best price.

Case one

A 30-year-old female student living in Derby. Drives a 1987 Ford Fiesta 1100 (social and domestic use). Two years no-claims bonus. Wants third party, fire and theft.
AA Link Ladies £157.22
Direct Line £175.28
Norwich Union Club Insurance £180.40
RAC £228.50

Case two

A 45-year-old office worker living in Oxford. Drives a 1990 Vauxhall Nova 1.0 litre (social, domestic use). Wants comprehensive cover with £200 excess.
AA East West Safe Driver £112.75
Direct Line £165.03
RAC £285.00
Norwich Union Club Insurance £299.95
Norwich Union, Club Gold £382.95

According to figures from the Department of Transport, the number of women drivers increased from 6.1 million in 1975 to 12.2 million in 1993. Male drivers were involved in 204,000 accidents that resulted in injury in 1993. In the same year, there were 95,000 accidents where female drivers were involved.

THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

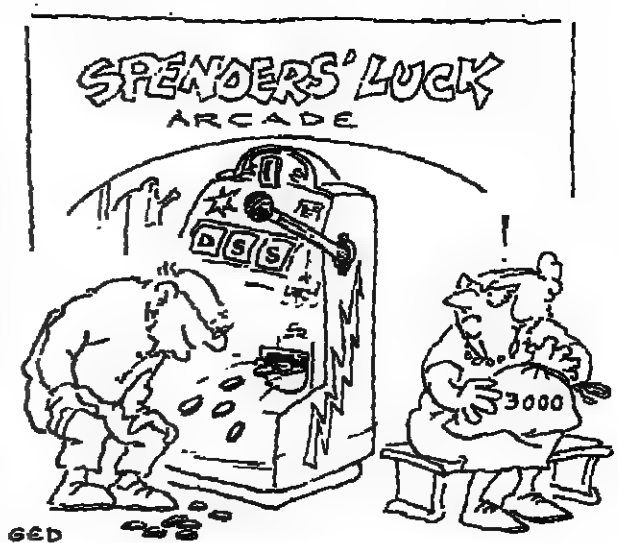
BT hardly a friend to the family

From Mrs Susan Miller
Sir, With reference to the announcement of British Telecom's apparent generosity (June 1) my "Friends and Family" option includes an Obit number to which an extra digit was added in mid-March. No discount has been credited to my account since this change.

When I phoned the helpline, I was advised that it was the customer's responsibility to notify any alterations to "Friends and Family" numbers. Even if those affected are sufficiently alert to spot the discrepancy and request an adjustment to their next ac-

count, they will still lose the interest on their overpayments. As a result of research I recently carried out for a genealogical reference book, I know that there are at least 26 other exchanges in Strathclyde region to which digits have been added in the past nine months.

British Telecom is obviously well aware of the Scottish saying "Money a mickle maks a muckle".
Yours faithfully,
SUSAN MILLER
(Association of Scottish Genealogists and Record Agents),
36 Branzard Road North,
Killearn, Glasgow.



Guilty edge to guilt

From Mr Ernest A. Moritz
Sir, The timing of the Government consultation document on the Gift-Edged Strip fills one with foreboding. It is sneaked out at Whitsun and gives a minimal consultation period until the end of June.

The contemplated tax changes are not clearly defined. It is to be hoped that the tax charge on capital gains at highest tax rate is not to be levied on existing holdings of gift-

edged securities. Investors, often pensioners, have bought them as a narrowly calculated investment, to avoid risk and stabilise income. Their real value is already being eroded by inflation. For the Government to change the goal posts on the basis of taxation, in effect retrospectively, would make them into guilt-edged securities.

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST A. MORITZ,
3 Fownhope Avenue,
Sale, Cheshire.

Savings, interest and income support

From Mrs M. B. Jenkinson
Sir, It is surprising that nobody has so far remarked on the assumption by the Department of Social Security that income support claimants, including the elderly, who have savings over £3,000 are able to obtain an income of £1 per week from every £250 that they possess.

This presupposes an astonishing rate of interest of 20 per cent on their savings. This totally unreal expectation,

which has remained unchanged through many years of declining interest rates, means that those with a few savings are heavily penalised for not having spent them.

I heartily endorse Mrs Thatcher's plea (May 27) that you will give as much publicity as possible to such unfair sources.
Yours faithfully,
M. B. JENKINSON,
19 Strachan Crescent,
Dollor, Clackmannanshire.

Water meter paid for in three years

From Mr R. G. Coleman
Sir, Your readers might be interested in our experiences as converts to a water meter (Weekend Money Letters, June 3, May 20) Thames Water installed a meter in our driveway eight weeks ago. Each week since then, on my hands and knees, I have read the meter.

My wife and I (usually the only two in the house) have used a steady 2.36 cubic metres per week. (10cu Metres is 220 gallons). In a year, at this

level, the water will cost £109. Adding £56 as the fixed charges, our total bill will be £165. We would have paid £263 under the water-rate system. The meter cost £300 to put in, so in three years we can recoup its cost, with a promising prospect after that.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD G. COLEMAN,
52 Falstaff Avenue,
Earley,
Reading.

Pay as you wash

From Audrey Watts-Osterling
Sir, I have been living in Belgium for over 25 years and to my knowledge there has never

been a meter replaced in my garage, nor have we seen noticeable differences to meter charges due to their bad operation. And I live in an area where lime scale is a real problem.

I disagree entirely with Mr Taylor. Metered water is the fairest way — if bills are properly assessed, of course. Why should I, or any other person, pay for the neighbour next door with a large family, using water ad lib on cars and lawns as well as the washing machine and dishwasher?

Water is an expensive commodity. If people are charged for what they use, they will

take more care to use it in moderation.
Yours faithfully,
A. WATTS-OSTERLING,
Hinckleystrat 11,
1910 Berg, Belgium.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns.

Open-house Lazards woos the public

You might think that the unit trust industry was already overcrowded.

But Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, takes a different view. Its unit trust division, which, in the past, has only dealt with the private and institutional clients of Lazard Brothers Asset Management, has opened its doors to just about anybody. The minimum investment in its funds has been decreased from £5,000 to £1,000 (£500 on subsequent investments) although the minimum on its new Pep will be £2,000. The initial charge on its eight trusts is 5.25 per cent, relatively high in today's cost-cutting climate. The annual management charges range from 1.25 per cent to 1.5 per cent.



Although not generally available, the Lazard trusts have still been monitored by Microanal, the performance information specialist. The trusts emerge quite creditably. In surveys, measuring their performance between June 1994 and June 1995, the main UK trusts, UK Capital, UK

Income and UK Income & Growth all take second place. If you had invested £100 in each, it would have grown to £114.11, £113.45 and £113.61 respectively. Over five years, between 1990 and 1995, the performance is not so impressive.

Comparable figures over five years are £159.19 (25th place), £166.60 (11th) and £157.13 (13th). UK Small Companies Growth Trust does not match up to its stablemates. Over one year, £100 invested in this trust would have shrunk to £95.14. Its five-year performance is, however, better. The £100 would have grown to £171.93. On offer, too, are US and Far Eastern trusts.

ANNE ASHWORTH

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Rated Best-Value-by-far for people over age 50

MONTHLY COSTINGS Full Refund Plans

Couple age 55 and 60	Couple age 60 and 65	Couple age 65 and 70
Exeter Friendly £70.11	Exeter Friendly £83.43	Exeter Friendly £95.10
Norwich Union £79.22	Norwich Union £104.33	BCWA £119.74
BCWA £83.53	BCWA £105.78	Norwich Union £138.47
PPP (Band C) £93.15	WPA £114.18	WPA £139.34
WPA £93.51	PPP £118.20	PPP £144.06
Prime Health £95.89	Prime Health £120.00	Prime Health £150.04
PPP (Band B) £114.11	Provincial £128.87	Provincial £150.16
BUPA £129.91	BUPA £164.92	BUPA £208.83

Source: Medi-Quota 11/5/95

Exeter Friendly Society was recently rated Best-Value-by-Far for people over age 50 for two very good reasons.

- 1 Exeter Friendly Society rates are set to favour people of retirement age and older.
- 2 Exeter Friendly Society does not automatically increase rates based on your age - most other insurers do. So with The Exeter, the older you grow the more you can save.

Anyone under 80 years old may join Exeter Friendly Society and coverage continues up to any age. You'll wish you had joined years ago.

2 MONTHS FREE COVER if you join Preferred Plan before 30 June 1995!

If you're under 80 years old phone 01392 498063 for details or complete the coupon.

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. _____

Ages of people to be included _____

50 EXETER PLAN FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Beech Hill House, Walnut Gardens, Exeter EX4 4DG

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Tax, savings and buying a home

Tips on how best to invest your savings is given in *Making The Most Of Your Money*, published by Nicholas Brealey. Concentrating on the fundamentals of personal finance, it is written by Helen Pridham, a Times contributor. It simplifies issues such as raising an income from your home or opting out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps). The 288-page book costs £7.99, and is available from most bookshops.

■ *Don't Pay Too Much Tax If You're Employed*, in the Allied Dunbar series, explains how and when you have to pay tax and National Insurance contributions on your earnings. David Williams, the author and a professor of tax law, focuses on where gains can be made through SAYE and share options. The 168-page book costs £7.99, and is available at most bookshops.

■ The Building Societies Association has updated its leaflet *Taxation of Building Society Interest 1995-96*, which explains how building society interest is taxed and lists how societies can pay interest gross. Send a SAE to BSA/CML Bookshop, 3 Savile Row, London, W1X 1AF.

■ The Council of Mortgage Lenders has published a series of guides to help home-buyers through the mortgage maze. *How To Buy A House* and *How To Buy A House In Scotland* outline the legal steps and practical considerations. *Hints For Home Buyers* provides a brief overview in a question-and-answer format. *Taxation And The Home Buyer* explains mortgage interest tax relief. Send a SAE to BSA/CML, stating which publication is required.

■ The Child Support Handbook, published by the Child Poverty Action Group, explains the child support scheme and offers practical advice on how to cope. Send a cheque or PO for £7.95 (£2.65 to benefit claimants) to CPAG Ltd, 1-5 Bath Street, London EC1V 9PT.

■ Savings Certificates of the 35th issue will mature between June 18, 1995, and March 14, 1996. National Savings will write to remind holders that after maturity certificates will no longer earn a guaranteed return, but will move on to the variable General Extension Rate.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS					
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
CLF Municipal Bank 0171 799 3322	Instant Acc	Instant	£500	6.00	Y/y
Sciticon BS 01232 70057	Instant	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Y/y
BAW Asset 0800 303330	Instant	Instant	£10,000	6.45	Y/y
Northorn Bank BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.75	Y/y
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid	
Lloyds Bank 0800 147789	High Inc Dpst	28.6.96	£1,000	7.85	F/y/y
Lloyds Bank 0800 147789	High Inc Dpst	30.6.96	£1,000	7.80	F/y/y
First National BS 01232 314050	Windfall Fund	3yr bond	£1,000	8.00	F/y/y
First National BS 01232 314050	Windfall Fund	4yr bond	£1,000	8.50	F/y/y

TESSAS (TAX FREE)		Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
		Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	5 year	£5,400	8.00	F/y/y
		CLF Municipal Bank 0171 799 3322	5 year	£50	7.50	Y/y
		Barclays Bank 0800 400100	5 year	£1,000	7.50	A/y/y
		Holmesdale BS 01737 245716	5 year	£500	7.50	Y/y

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS					
Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum		
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12	
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	N/A	
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E	

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS					
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	No insurance		
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33		
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£108.14		
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.27	£110.34		
Yorkshire Bank 0113 231 5324	15.50%	£118.27	£110.34		

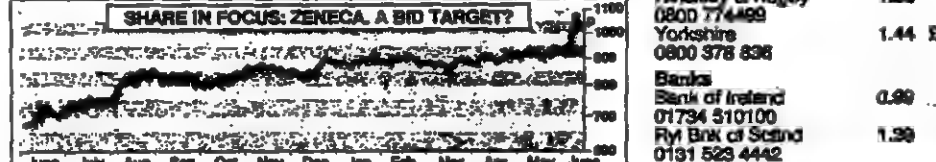
N/A - Fee charged on account required. In the interest rate column, G = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee rebated for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all others are variable). CM denotes interest paid on maturity.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

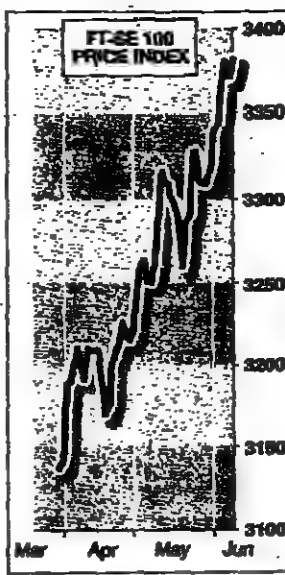
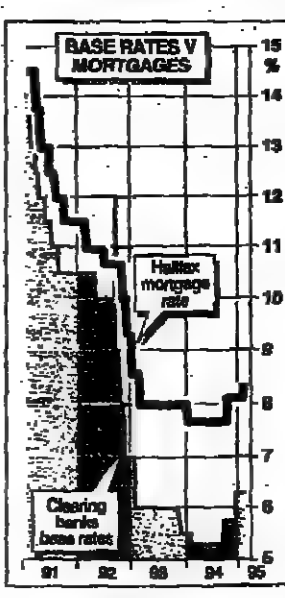
Sources: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01662 500 677)

PIBS					
Account	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase	
Fixed Rate					
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	95.52	9.804	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	118.68	9.788	100.13	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	142.46	9.788	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	134.74	9.907	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	130.86	9.924	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Gloucester	11.750%	124.51	9.421	100.96	50,000
Coverity	12.125%	122.05	9.910	100.76	1,000
First National	11.750%	110.63	10.611	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	94.44	9.260	100.62	50,000
Leeds Permanent	12.000%	125.82	9.363	100.28	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.625%	143.82	9.493	100.00	50,000
Newcastle	10.750%	124.38	9.942	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	128.50	9.806	100.45	1,000
Northorn Bank	12.625%	128.75	9.795	100.14	1,000
Sciticon	12.875%	128.36	9.943	100.48	1,000
Floating Rate					
First National	9.6750%	101.00	100.00	1,000	
Cheshire	9.50156%	103.00	100.00	1,000	

PIBS = Permanent Interest Bearing Securities. Source: ABI AMRO House (0201 801 0101)



June July Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May June



LARGER LENDERS					
Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes	
Building Societies	2.95	neg	90	5.5% discount for 12 months	
Sciticon	2.95	neg	80	5.4% discount for 12 months	
Northorn Bank	2.40	to £150k	90	5.0% discount to 1.9.96	
Bank of Scotland	2.95	neg	75	5.35% discount for 1 year	
Abbey National	3.15	£15k+	75	5.2% discount for 1 year	

LARGER LOANS					
Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes	
Building Societies	1.00	to £100k	95	7.4% discount for 6 months	
Sciticon	1.25	to £150k	70	7% discount for 6 months	
Yorkshire	1.44	£25-£150k	65	7% discount for 6 months	
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.5% discount for 6 months	
First National	1.39	£200k	95	7.5% discount for 6 months	

Ordinary A/c	At rate	At rate	At rate	At rate	At rate
Investment A/c	2.00	1.80	1.20	10-10,000	0.14164555
Income Bond	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-499	0.14164555
First Op Bond	5.50	4.88	3.80	200-249	0.125376151
2nd Op Bond	4.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000	0.14164555
Child's Bond	7.85			25-1,000	0.14164555
Gen Ext Bond	3.51				
Capital Bonds	7.75	5.81	4.85	100-250,000	0.14164555
8th Index Linked	3.00			100-10,000	0.14164555
Parsons Bond	7.50	5.69	4.50	500-20,000	0.125376151

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance.

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)					
	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70		
Sun Life	£9,781	£10,854	£12,348		
North Union	£10,050	£11,005	£12,526		
Royal Life	£10,047	£11,183	£12,723		
Canada Life	£10,195	£11,360	£12,887		
General	£10,285	£11,310	£12,847		
SINGLE LIFE					
	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70		
North Union	£8,516	£10,247	£11,391		
Royal Life	£9,513	£10,149	£12,723		
Canada Life	£9,571	£10,208	£11,431		
General	£9,584	£10,266	£11,404		
Sun Life	£9,945	£10,735	£12,885		
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)					
	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70		
North Union	£9,104	£9,651	£10,440		
Canada Life	£9,959	£10,514	£11,431		
Royal Life	£9,880	£10,486	£11,413		
Sun Life	£9,904	£10,412	£11,404		
General	£9,905	£10,421	£11,473		

Sources: Annuity Direct (0171 378 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

LIFELINE - FOR THE BEST LIFE ASSURANCE RATES					
Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes	
Building Societies	1.25	to 150k	70	7.1% discount for 9 months	
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Widespread losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	Low	Company	1994	Low	Company	1993	Low	Company
BANKS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DISTRIBUTORS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BREWERIES								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ENGINEERING VEHICLES								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
FOOD MANUFACTURERS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ELECTRICITY								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ELECTRONIC & ELECT								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
HEALTHCARE								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
HOUSEHOLD GOODS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INSURANCE								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ENGINEERING								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BUSINESS SERVICES								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
CHEMICALS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1995	Low	Company	1994	Low	Company	1993	Low	Company
PHARMACEUTICALS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PRINTING & PAPER								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MINING								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LEISURE & HOTELS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PROPERTY								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TELECOMMUNICATIONS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TEXTILES & APPAREL								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TRANSPORT								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, FOOD								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, GENERAL								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
WATER								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1995	Low	Company	1994	Low	Company	1993	Low	Company
SPRITS, WINES & CIDERS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
SUPPORT SERVICES								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PROPERTY								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TELECOMMUNICATIONS								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TEXTILES & APPAREL								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TRANSPORT								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, FOOD								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, GENERAL								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
WATER								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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SHORTS (under 5 years)								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LONGS (over 15 years)								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNDATED								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INDEX-LINKED								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1995	Low	Company	1994	Low	Company	1993	Low	Company
SHORTS (under 5 years)								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LONGS (over 15 years)								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNDATED								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INDEX-LINKED								
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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Derby pitch deemed unsuitable by Lamb

By IVO TENNANT

DERBY (second day of four): Northamptonshire (20 pts) beat Derbyshire (4pts) by four wickets

A CHAMPIONSHIP match supposed to be played over four days ended before tea yesterday with seven sessions still remaining, and the Northamptonshire captain as critical of the pitch as he was pleased that his side continues to lead the table. "It was below average with too much grass left on and loaded far too much in the bowlers' favour," Allan Lamb said.

Indeed it was. Although the groundsmen took some of this grass off before the start of play yesterday, no batsman looked like staying in for any length of time. There was not one half-century made over the two days. It was not a dangerous pitch and hence did not attract any opprobrium from the umpires, but any more like this and Derbyshire's members will start to wonder about the value of their subscriptions.

They will not want to hear their own captain, Kim Barnett, say that he "does not believe in making pitches to fill the time available", especially after he has lost the match. County clubs have to consider their members, and that, whatever their views on four-day cricket, it has to be approached in a respectful way.

That Northamptonshire were victorious was simply because, for all their endeavours, they had the stronger side. We have to think of them seriously now as possible county champions. Having taken the remaining seven Derbyshire wickets, they made the runs they required, 133, through three reasonable contributions from their middle order.

It was not only the bowlers who swung the ball and moved it off the pitch who were a handful. Lamb had Kumble, his leg spinner, on from the start of play. The bounce that he extracted accounted for Harris, caught at

short leg off the face of the bat. Wells was taken in the same position, pushing forward at Capel as he had at Curran in the first innings.

Dessaur was beaten by one Taylor brought back at him. Krikken was leg-before to Maltender, half-forward, and Aldred went in like manner, trying to turn the ball to leg. Warner was bowled lunging peculiarly at Kumble — the Chancellor of the Exchequer had his bowling rather than his batting in mind when agreeing to write for his benefit brochure — and Cotnam was nearly picked up by Curran at second slip off Taylor.

All this was about as unedifying to observe as it must have been to enact for the batting side. Taylor finished with four wickets, eight in the match, and Northamptonshire with as much time as they desired to make what, in these conditions, was something more than a trifling total. They also had to contend with Cork, who was not so stiff from his previous day's exertions as to be unable to bowl them out a second time.

Cork puts his greater maturity down to the necessary self-discipline imposed through looking after himself in India last winter. He has learnt, too, from Malcolm Marshall who passed on some tips at Chesham, earlier in the season. Cork soon snuffed the wickets of the openers, Fordham and Montgomerie, both leg-before lunging at the swinging, darting, near-unplayable ball.

There were further wickets. Lamb caught behind off one that drifted away and Warner going in similar fashion. But by then, those two and Bailey, who was dropped at second slip when he had eight, had made sufficient runs for the outcome no longer to be in doubt. Aldred did have Curran extremely well held by Wells at first slip, but that, as the announcer said, concluded the day's entertainment. Only in this match, the conditions ensured that there was all too little.

Admirable Adams the perfect foil



MICHAEL HENDERSON AT HEADINGLEY

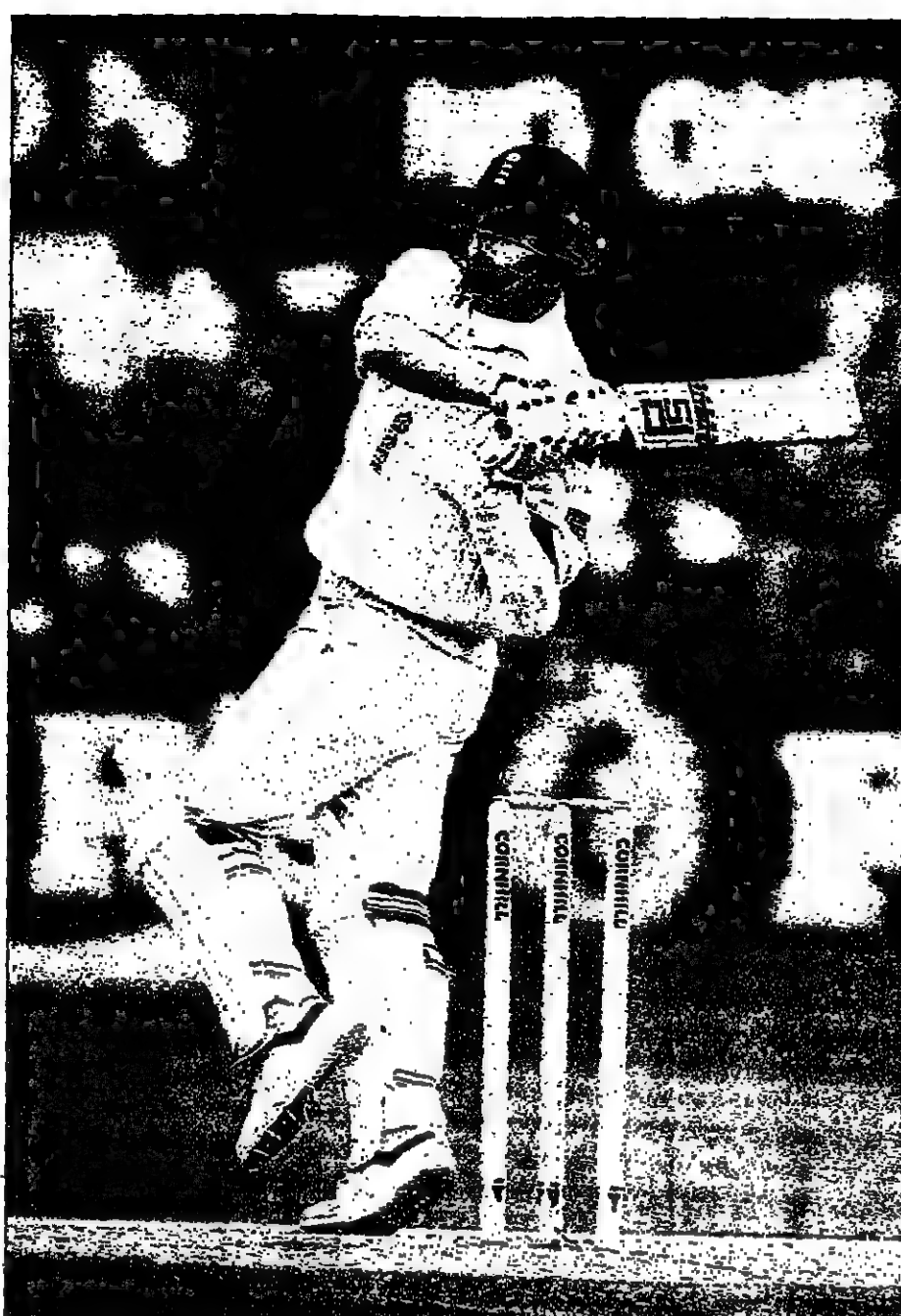
There is something reassuring about watching Jimmy Adams bat something right, something proper. He has shots but he is not a spendthrift. His defence is made from bricks but he is hardly a labourer. As batsman, short leg fielder and team-mate he is the ideal cricketer: honest, selfless, thorough.

He is also mightily talented, which is not to say he is brilliant. His lack of brilliance is perhaps his strongest quality. Brilliance dazzles, as Brian Lara dazzled for a glittering hour yesterday; it can also deceive. Adams could never deceive himself or anybody else. Whether you call it fortitude, dedication or simply "the right stuff", he has got oodles of it, and aren't West Indies the lucky ones?

On a day when England's batsmen chose to reveal their lack of discretion it was not hard to admire Adams's resolution. In 19 Tests (only three more than Mark Ramprakash, who remains unproven) he has become the pole of stability in the West Indies batting order, the solid player around whom others can fashion a more expansive, eye-catching game. If that makes him sound a bit dull-dogish, pick the bones out of this little fact: he averages 72.

In cricket, as in life, there is a classical strain and a romantic one. West Indian batsmen tend to belong in the latter camp. In recent years the solid Larry Gomes stands out among the left-handers (Sobers, Lloyd, Fredericks) as the one closest to Adams in temperament and approach, though he wasn't as good a player.

Lara, the improviser, is a romantic, closer in emotional range to Sobers than any other since the great all-rounder retired from Test cricket in 1974. Sobers was quoted last week saying something very odd, that Lara had the "potential" to



Gough, who entered to a warm reception from his home crowd, left in silence after hooking his first ball into the hands of Ambrose. Photograph: Marc Aspland

become a "genius", which is not a word anybody with a sense of history or proportion should use freely.

First, genius is something that afflicts its possessor. One doesn't come by it as at a bring-and-buy sale. Secondly, it is too precious a quality to be wasted on mere sportsmen, however gifted they may be. Genius may be found in the third act of *La Bohème*, the eyes of a Rembrandt self-portrait or in the harmonious splendour of the Place Vendôme. It is not evident in a beautiful cover drive, or a dozen beautiful cover drives.

If you are not a genius, however, the next best thing is

to bat like Lara. Going to 50 in 40 balls as he did, and finding the boundary from a quarter of them, is a dandy way to make good the loss of a wicket to the first ball he plays. At times, Lara batted like a man who has other things on his mind, as he has. Not everybody has to shoulder a burden of expectation that will never ease.

His exchanges with Darren Gough, so eagerly awaited, were disappointingly one-sided. Lara drove the first ball he received from Gough past the bowler for four and, in all, took 19 runs off the 15 balls he faced from him. There were further boundaries hit

straight, dabbled to third man and, best of all, pummelled past cover. That was a real "not a man move" stroke, as C. L. R. James used to put it. Adams cannot play like that, and nor can anybody else. It goes almost without saying that the cricketers on the western terrace appreciated every ball of these two splendid little innings. "Think Tank" convened early and sat until it was time to go home, if anyone could remember by then where home was. By the end of the day, as England clawed some ground back, there were people doing the conga. Ye Gods!

Blenkiron pulls and drives to the rescue

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

DARREN BLENKIRON, 21, whose three previous innings in championship cricket for Durham had produced only seven runs, took the fight to the Essex bowlers so successfully at Chelmsford yesterday that he needed only 99 balls to score 94 and rescue his side from yet another collapse.

Durham, beaten in their past five matches, were 69 for four in reply to 373 when Blenkiron, whose father played for Warwickshire, took guard with aggressive intent. Most of his 15 runs came from full-blooded drives and pulls, and it took a fine diving catch by Ronnie Irani to deprive him of a well-deserved century. None of Blenkiron's teammates got beyond 25 in a total of 246 for nine.

The two remaining Essex wickets in the morning were taken by Alan Walker, 32, who returned career-best figures of eight for 118, which were also the best by a Durham bowler since the county achieved first-class status in 1992.

Rain at Canterbury meant that the Gloucestershire seam bowlers had to wait until late afternoon to try and consolidate the Lynch-inspired recovery of the first day. Mark Benson fell almost immediately, but Min Patel, the nightwatchman, proved difficult to shift.

He and Mark Ealham ground out 55 runs in taking the score to 69 and Patel had been in for two hours for 26 when he fell to Mark Alleyne. Left-arm Mike Smith then made a mess of the middle order and Kent finished at 98 for seven, still 223 behind.

With Tom Moody hitting an unbeaten 132, Worcestershire built up a promising position at Trent Bridge. It was a day of hard toil for the three Nottinghamshire spinners as Moody and Philip Weston, who made and added 277 for the third 108, added 279 for three. Worcestershire are only 22 behind. Moody has already hit three sixes and 13 fours.

Maynard and Cottey far from flagging

By JACK BAILEY

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 78 runs behind Lancashire

JUST as Thursday belonged to Lancashire, yesterday was emphatically Glamorgan's. The pitch behaved beautifully — except that is, when Wasim Akram dug one in and broke. Adrian Dale's thumb — and, after Lancashire's last two wickets had added 39 more runs, Glamorgan set to with a will. In the vanguard were Matthew Maynard and Tony Cottey, with Hugh Morris close behind.

In adding 198 runs in an unbroken third-wicket part-

nership, Maynard and Cottey beat the previous highest against Lancashire, scored by Tony Lewis and Peter Walker in 1970. Both scored centuries of a high quality, both looked capable of batting for far longer against an attack that, long before the end, had settled for containment.

Maynard's first century of the season was a sharp reminder of how good a player he can be. He set out his stall more carefully than he sometimes does, taking 82 balls to reach his half-century. There was no rush: Glamorgan were facing a large total, and the last thing they needed was a flurry of runs and wickets.

Furthermore, the Lancashire attack had been largely blunted by Morris. The Gla-

morgan captain gave Lancashire's bowling precious little leeway while he gathered 87 in ten minutes short of three hours, allowing no bad ball to go unpunished until he received a full toss from Gary Keedy and holed out to mid-on.

By then, too, Dale had left the scene. In Wasim's first over of the innings, a sharply lifting ball had struck the batsman on the right hand before he had scored. As if piqued, the Glamorgan opener took three successive fours off Wasim a few overs later in a blaze of stroke play, only to leave the field within minutes. 31 in his name, all scored, as it later transpired, with a broken thumb.

Dale declared himself fit to

bat in an emergency, but it never looked as though Glamorgan would need him again yesterday. David Hemp did not last long, but once he had fallen victim to Wasim's sucker punch — looking for the bounce after crashing the previous ball off the front foot for four, and receiving, instead, a gentle drier of full length which he edged to the keeper — Maynard and Cottey took over.

The Lancashire bowling was steady, but was looking resigned long before the end, as Maynard was joined by the busy little Cottey. If anything, the odd ball was inclined to keep low, which suited the 5ft 4in Cottey down to the ground, so to speak. He made his century in two-and-a-half

hours, striking 13 fours along the way. Disappointing though all this may have been for Lancashire in general, a particular concern must revolve around the continued indifferent form of their promising opening bowler, Glen Chappell. Bidding fair for England honours after his triumphant return from India with the England A team, he may well be bothered more than he lets on by a persistent injury behind the knee.

Certainly, he appears to be failing to point his left shoulder towards the batsman in his delivery stride, falling away as he bowls. Yesterday, there was little evidence of the out-swinging that has often been his chief weapon.

Champions thwarted by sixth-wicket pair

By RUPERT COX

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Sussex, with one first-innings wicket standing, lead Warwickshire by 112 runs

A BIRMINGHAM day that began in bright sunshine for the champions ended in relative gloom. Although the early Sussex batsmen failed to capitalise after establishing themselves, a century stand for the sixth wicket, the third this season, by Keith Greenfield and Peter Moores, put the visitors in the ascendancy.

Despite some indifferent one-day form this season, Warwickshire's championship credentials have remained largely intact. However, on yesterday's showing, they are going to need a much improved all-round performance to procure more than the bonus points they have already gained.

With Tim Munton and Allan Donald returning to boost their bowling resources, the South African after a fruitful night's sleep thanks to his three-week-old daughter, Hannah, Warwickshire could have been expected to exert strong pressure.

But initially the two bowlers struggled to find their rhythm,

although they managed to ally apprehension with excellent spells when bowling in tandem with the second new ball late in the day.

With the benefit of hindsight, Munton will doubtless rue his decision to bat on Thursday for the pitch was considerably more hostile yesterday, affording minimal lateral movement. A good toss to lose for Alan Wells, whose embellished by ten boundaries. He looked good for many more when he inconspicuously attempted to pull Donald and top-edged to fine leg.

The continued absence of Martin Speight, because of a virus, deprived a small crowd of more lavish entertainment, although the partnership between Greenfield and Moores was ideally suited to the team cause.

Two dropped catches by Dominic Ostry at second slip, when Jamie Hall was 11 and Moores too, have proved costly for Warwickshire who were glad to see the back of the compact Greenfield, who made 84 and was unfortunate to miss out on a second championship century of the campaign.

Bicknell remembers lines

By SIMON WILDE

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 31 runs ahead of Somerset

WHAT is it about England fast bowlers? Seemingly, to do the job one requires an inability to stay fit for more than a week at a time, a liking for being a shark in the pool of county cricket and a tendency to look like a tiddler in the ocean of the international game. Martin Bicknell is one such strange fish.

Bicknell played two Test matches against Australia in 1993 on the back of a handful of wickets for Surrey. He was not a roaring success. Border and the Waugh twins milking him to their hearts' content. It was rather fortuitous when he broke down on the eve of the Oval Test, allowing Fraser to return after a two-year absence through injury to contribute to a famous victory. England played three fast bowlers who were all a success.

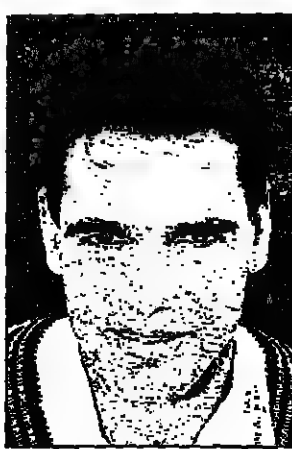
Since then Bicknell has rarely been fit, missing more championship matches than he has played in. He has fractured a foot, tweaked a hamstring and strained an ankle. Between times he has occasionally taken wickets

but not enough for the England selectors to remember him. Until yesterday afternoon, it was obvious why.

Somerset had fed on his diet of wickets and long hops. On Thursday evening he bowled five successive deliveries to stay fit for more than a week at a time, a liking for being a shark in the pool of county cricket and a tendency to look like a tiddler in the ocean of the international game. Martin Bicknell is one such strange fish.

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Harden: falls short

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship	
Derby v Northants	
DERBY (second day of four): Northamptonshire (20 pts) beat Derbyshire (4pts) by four wickets	
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Northamptonshire: 1st Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Northamptonshire: 2nd Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Derbyshire: 1st Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Derbyshire: 2nd Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Lancashire v Glamorgan	
Lancashire: 1st Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Glamorgan: 1st Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Lancashire: 2nd Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Glamorgan: 2nd Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Essex v Durham	
Essex: 1st Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Durham: 1st Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Essex: 2nd Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Durham: 2nd Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Warwickshire v Sussex	
Warwickshire: 1st Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Sussex: 1st Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Warwickshire: 2nd Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Sussex: 2nd Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Gloucestershire v Kent	
Gloucestershire: 1st Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Kent: 1st Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Gloucestershire: 2nd Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Kent: 2nd Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire	
Worcestershire: 1st Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Nottinghamshire: 1st Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Worcestershire: 2nd Innings 158 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	
Nottinghamshire: 2nd Innings 113 (J P Taylor 4 for 28)	

Defeat may spell end of era

Scotland bank on exploiting 'weak link' in All Blacks

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN PRETORIA

THE end of an era looms for Scotland in Pretoria tomorrow. Defeat, as most predict, at the hands of New Zealand in the quarter-final of the World Cup will see the break-up of the team with the retirement of Iain Morrison and the man who has dominated Scottish rugby for the past four years, Gavin Hastings, the captain. The match could also mark the end of the careers of Dougie Morgan and Duncan Paterson, coach and manager respectively.

Such is Hastings' monumental will to win, it would be wrong to start writing epitaphs just yet. Although the Scottish challenge is being largely dismissed, the team believes that in a one-off situation, and with Hastings writing his own script in the autumn of a phenomenal career, an upset of momentous proportions is possible.

Hastings, the only Scotsman playing tomorrow who has tasted victory over New Zealand, and that as captain of the British Isles in the second international in Wellington in 1993, is adamant that the All Blacks can be

beaten. "I have been emphasising to the boys all week that they are beatable. We have to be positive. I am so positive that I haven't given retirement a thought. As far as I am concerned the World Cup is still there to be won."

The Scots are basing much of their optimism on the fact that New Zealand have untied youngsters in key positions — none more so than Andrew Mehrtens, the stand-off — who have yet to encounter the cauldron of really pressured international rugby. For, apart from 30 minutes against Ireland when the All Blacks were made to backpedal, nobody has been able to turn the screw. The fact that the Irish scored three tries in that match before losing the match, and with Hastings writing his own script in the autumn of a phenomenal career, an upset of momentous proportions is possible.

Craig Chalmers, their stand-off half, said Scotland was a more organised and better all-round side than the Irish. "It's a knockout competition and whether we win by one point or ten we don't care. We don't want this to be Gavin's last game. We are best

when we are the underdogs." Chalmers, however, agrees that it will take the performance of their lives to win. "We have got to concentrate for 80 minutes. We cannot afford a single lapse, for that is when they put the knife in. Everything we do has got to be precision."

Much will depend on the performance of the Scottish front five in providing a stable platform from which the so far impressive Scottish back row can dictate the pattern of the game. The role and impact of the opposing open sides, Morrison and Josh Kronfeld, will be vital and intriguing: the cerebral Morrison against Kronfeld who is being likened to a dog of war. New Zealand would appear to have the advantage in the set-piece, especially with the recall of the powerful Richard Lee against Peter Wright whom the All Blacks consider a weak link — not that Wright will shirk the challenge.

Given parity of possession, particularly from the lineout where New Zealand are not blessed with giants, Scotland can launch themselves forward. They know, however, that they must do more than rely on an often aimless, aerial bombardment as they did against France. Having built themselves so much for that game, the pressure will, in a way, be far less intense because so little is expected of the Scots.

For their part, New Zealand are aware of the risks of gambling on youth. Lomu, impressive in attack, has yet to be tested on the back foot. Wilson has not played an international at full back, and Mehrtens has plundered against only weak opposition. Nonetheless, Brian Lochore, their campaign manager, sees the future in their hands. "These young guys are the key to our success. We are happy with them."

The prize is huge: a place in the semi-final against either England or Australia.

Hastings calls for heroic commitment

David Miller finds the inspirational captain, who carries Scotland's hopes, in bullish mood

SPORT can be a kind of voluntary torture. Ecstasy and front-wheel blowouts imply the same anonymous scriptwriter. Ask Gavin Hastings.

In the span of six months Scotland's form has swung from one extreme to another. Never has the character of the rugby team or its captain been so on the line as today against New Zealand in the World Cup quarter-final.

Scotland have gone from the thumbscrew, against South Africa last November when walloped 34-10 at Murrayfield, to sweet victory against Paris in the five nations' championship, with their first victory there in 26 years. Then victory laughed in their face with France's last-minute try in the World Cup last week denying them the supposedly easier quarter-final against Ireland. They were back on the rack.

Amid this turmoil, Scotland's captain keeps his chin up. He has said the team will make history today. "We need to," he said, conceding that not a soul in the World Cup without tartan bowing in the blood gives Scotland a ghost of a chance at Ellis Park.

"A lot of our preparation has concentrated on the mind-game," he admitted. "With a record like ours [two draws and 15 defeats over 90 years] there's something psychological we have to overcome against the Kiwis, never mind the physical. To beat them, we have to have 15 guys playing the heroic game of their life. New Zealand are not unbeatable. France have shown that."

At 33, Hastings is scheduled to retire after ten seasons at the top. Anyone asking what has been his best match is gently rebuffed. "Don't ask me till we've played New Zealand." Pressed, he thinks there were perhaps three: the grand slam against England at Murrayfield in 1990, the second international against New Zealand for the first time in 1993, when captain, and Paris this year. "They were all similar," he says, with almost in-bred underdogery. "We'd been written off in all of



Hastings needs to produce his most accurate kicking form against New Zealand

them. What showed through on the day was character. A mental readiness."

Hastings has inevitably carried some of the blame for the 18-month spell of nine matches without victory, culminating in the Springbok mauling last autumn. The tide was turned with the first victory in ten games, 22-6 against Canada in January. The change in fortune came with change in personnel. "It's tough on those who lost to the Springboks," he said, "but the ten changes

against Canada produced the necessary effect."

The match in Paris was Scotland's thirteenth in a winless run there, and Hastings' thirteenth as captain. He told his colleagues the odds must mean something. They did. He scored a memorable late try, and converted for a 23-21 victory.

The responsibility on the captain's shoulders these last few days, the demands from sponsors and media, never mind the coaching staff, have

reached intolerable proportions. Yet he shows no evidence of disorientation, only the persistent demeanour of optimism in the face of towering odds.

When he had tea together, scheduled between a visit to a township and attending a British Embassy cocktail party, he fetched the tea from the players' canteen and, remarkably, managed to be ungrudging, relaxed and objective.

Is it all too much? "There are moments when I think

my God, why am I doing this? The pressure is huge. Yet I accept the situation. I won't be doing it in a year's time, and I'm not sad or worried about that." The man has perspective, even if he did uncharacteristically break into tears after losing to England in 1994.

Everyone looks for that "edge" over an opponent. Scotland like to think they may have found one. "Our analyses, of New Zealand's recent performances and ours, have been more thorough than for any game," Hastings said. "I no longer bother about whether we'd rather have played Ireland than them. You have to beat the best."

It is said that Scotland lack bulk, on the one hand, fluidity on the other. Hastings reck-

Try	Con	Pen	Pts
1987	1	2	14
1988	1	2	14
1989	1	2	14
1990	1	2	14
1991	1	2	14
1992	1	2	14
1993	1	2	14
1994	1	2	14
1995	1	2	14
Total	4	8	56

ons that opinion is as fluctuating as form. "They're no bigger than our guys," he asserts. "We've shown our ability at running rugby in the five nations, but the tendency is for people to associate that skill with teams other than Scotland."

Recently I saw a re-run of *The Longest Day*, a romanticised war film of an awful time in history. One of the genuinely moving moments, real and uncontrived, is the pipe leading his regiment ashore and up the beachhead. Sport is not, or should not be, an alternative to war, but it is just that kind of self-contained spirit that Scotland will need today, against another "little" nation that is big in rugby.

TOMORROW'S TEAMS IN PRETORIA

NEW ZEALAND

J W Wilson (Otago)
M G G Ellis (Otago)
F E Bunce (North Harbour)
W K Little (North Harbour)
J T Lomu (Counties)
A Mehrtens (Canterbury)
G T M Bachop (Canterbury)
R W Lee (Canterbury)
S B T Fitzpatrick (Auckland)
O M Brown (Auckland)
M R Brewer (Canterbury)
I D Jones (North Harbour)
R M Brooke (Otago)
Z V Brooke (Auckland)

Referee: W D Bevan (Wales)
Replacements: 16 E J Rush (North Harbour), 17 S Cuthbert (Southland), 18 A D Strachan (North Harbour), 19 J W Joseph (Otago), 20 G W Dowd (Auckland), 21 N J Hewitt (Southland)

SCOTLAND

15 A G Hastings (Watsonians)*
14 G A Joiner (Melrose)
13 S Hastings (Watsonians)
12 A G Smail (Melrose)
11 K M Logan (Stirling County)
10 G M Chalmers (Melrose)
9 B W Redpath (Melrose)
8 D I W Hilton (Bath)
7 K M Smail (Hawick's FP)
6 P H Wright (Boroughmuir)
5 R I Walmsley (West Hartlepool)
4 D F Cronin (Glasgow)
3 G W Weir (Melrose)
2 J R Morrison (London Scottish)
1 E W Peters (Bath)

* captain
Replacements: 10 A G Stanger (Hawick), 17 I C Jardine (Stirling County), 18 D W Patterson (West Hartlepool), 19 S J Campbell (Dundee HFP), 20 A P Burrell (London Scottish), 21 K D McKenzie (Stirling County)

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Chinese puzzle deepens with cancellation of trip



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

THIS weekend, the first senior swimming team to leave China since the doping scandal competes in Barcelona. They go on to Canet, France, in midweek, and then to Monte Carlo next weekend. And every stroke they make, they are pursued by whacking great doubts.

Seven Chinese swimmers tested positive for steroids at the Asian Games last October, which adds up to half the positive tests in swimming since testing began.

Suspicion of a state-sponsored doping programme boiled over at the world championships last September. Zhou Ming, the assistant head coach, responded: "You ask me questions about doping because of misunderstanding and jealousy. It's a sort of political thing. The sports world had always been the domain of Western people. They just can't tolerate Asian people being good at sport."

He also invited any Western journalist to go over to China, to visit training camps, and to see how straight and honest and downright tough the Chinese method really was.

The challenge was taken up by Phil Whitten, the editor of one of the sport's leading specialist magazines, *Swimming World*.

A lengthy correspondence on schedules, times, locations, interviews, interpreters, etc. etc. has just ended with a letter from the Chinese Swimming Association. It read: "I'm very sorry to notify you that your planned visit, which has been repeatedly postponed, will have to be cancelled altogether."

The reasons given were (1) too much domestic competition, leading to a shortage of available working staff; and (2) unwillingness to meet some of Whitten's requests for visits and interviews.

Whitten said: "I guess it's OK to visit if you agree to be shepherded around, like the International Olympic Committee and Fina [the international swimming federation]. That way you relay the messages you want people to hear... China never intended to let Western journalists take an honest look at her so-called training methods."

Testing credulity

Meanwhile, Fina made a recent visit to a Chinese doping testing station. The tour began after an unexplained delay. The report of the visit states: "Practically every testing station was occupied, but they were working with no samples in view. Computers were all on, but no data appeared to be tested. The printers were not printing: the entire staff fled out of the building as soon as we left."

Kids' stuff

God's-in-his-heaven section: Ben Watson, aged 11, has just



set an all-time record for King's College School, Cambridge. Playing for the prep school under-11 cricket side against its deadly school rivals, St John's, he hit 153 in 90 minutes, with 25 boundaries. He also took six for 44, but he has done better since, with hauls of eight for 28 and seven for 12. So far this season, he has 43 wickets at an average of 3.97, and a strike rate of a wicket every two overs.

Just for kicks

The world is wondering how Eric Cantona, the poor man's

Diego, is filling in the long hours till he is next permitted to play football. Naturally, this column can reveal all. He is being a film star, of course. He has taken a part in a film to be called *Le bonheur est dans le pré* (or *Happiness is in the Field*, if you prefer). It is the story of an individualist who abandons the hard world of commerce for the good old simple life. No, Eric is not that individualist, but the fiancée of the individualist's daughter, who lives with the family on the farm and who loves sport. At last, Bruce Lee has an heir!

Going strong

We have been hearing a lot of late about how amazing it is that Linford Christie still competes at 35. Recently, the old boy was doing his bit for his club at a division one meeting. There, doing the pole vault for Blackheath Harriers, was Jim Day, aged 61. He finished fourth. Consider Linford utterly upstaged.

New goals

This is one of those letter-of-the-week sort of weeks, and so I am delighted to send Eddie Orley a bottle of Chateau de Sours grown-up rose for a soupçon of summer. He writes to nominate Alan Pettis, of Hull City, as goalkeeper of the year. Mr Orley reports that Pettis made his first outfield appearance for Hull City in the second division match against Oxford United on December 17. Coming on as an eighteenth-minute substitute, he immediately converted a near-post corner to secure a 3-1 victory. His second outfield appearance was a full 90 minutes in the final game of the season, at Blackpool. You've guessed it, he scored again, a winner with the last kick of the season. Can there be any goalkeeper in the world to match goal-keeper Pettis? Mr Orley thinks so.

CRICKET

First Cornhill Insurance Test match 11.0, third day of five, 80 overs minimum
HEADLINE: England v West Indies
BIRMINGHAM: Warwickshire county championship

11.0, third day of four, 110 overs minimum
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Durham
CANTEBURY: Kent v Gloucestershire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Glamorgan
NOTTINGHAM: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset
EDGECASTLE: Warwickshire v Sussex

Other match
11.30, second day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Middlesex

FOOTBALL

UEFA Cup
Sweden v Japan
City Ground, Nottingham, 8.0
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group six, Ireland v Austria (Richmond Park, Dublin, 7.0)
TOWNSEND: Tottenham v Arsenal (White Hart Lane, 7.0)
Group 2: England v Argentina (La Serna, 8.30); Brazil v Malaysia (Draguignan, 8.30)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League American Football v Scottish Claymores (White Hart Lane, 7.0)
ARCHERY: National Target Championships (Luton)
BOWLS: WFO featherweight championship: Steve Robinson (Canterbury) v Fabrizio Caporali (Canterbury) WSO featherweight championship: Colin Thompson (Manchester) v Neil Rodger (Canterbury)
CYCLING: Macclesfield Open meeting (Macclesfield)
EQUESTRIAN: Three-day event (Barnham)
GOLF: Amateur Championship (Royal Liverpool)
SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Bradford v Essex (Owlthorpe)
POKER: Eastbourne v Middlesbrough: King's Lynn v Bournemouth v Ipswich
TENNIS: International Open (Bournemouth)

TOMORROW

CRICKET
First Cornhill Insurance Test match 11.0, fourth day of five, 80 overs minimum
HEADLINE: England v West Indies
AKA Equity & Law League

2.0, 40 overs
DERBY: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Durham
BASINGSTON: Hampshire v Gloucestershire

CANTEBURY: Kent v Gloucestershire
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Glamorgan
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset
EDGECASTLE: Warwickshire v Sussex

Other match
11.30, final day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Middlesex

FOOTBALL

UEFA Cup
England v Brazil
(Wembley, 4.0, all ticket)
European championship
Qualifying group six
Ireland v Austria
(Dublin, 4.0)

OTHER SPORT

ARCHERY: National target championships (Luton)
EQUESTRIAN: Three-day event (Barnham)
MOTOR SPORT: British touring car championship (Silverstone)
SPEEDWAY: Premier world championship
OVERSEAS: Ireland v Coventry 6.0
TENNIS: International Open (Bournemouth)
TRIATHLON: National Olympic distance championships (Windsor, 7.30am)

England ready for close encounter

Battle of back row titans will prove decisive

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN JOHANNESBURG

WITHIN 48 hours it is possible to conceive that not one of the four home unions will remain in the Rugby World Cup here in South Africa. Were that to be the case the only representative of the northern hemisphere left standing would be France, who carried the torch so well during the inaugural tournament in 1987.

At a reception in Durban the other week, Sir Ewart Bell, chairman of Rugby World Cup Limited, though careful not to stretch his neutrality, stressed the hope that a northern hemisphere nation would have its name engraved on the Webb Ellis Trophy in the not too distant future so as to emphasise the global nature of the tournament.

So far, the trophy has belonged to New Zealand and Australia, both of whom play their quarter-final matches tomorrow in Pretoria and Cape Town, respectively. But the heavyweight contest is that between Australia and England in Cape Town, where Brian Moore, the aggressive, pugnacious and argumentative hooker capped off times by England, neither contemplates defeat against Australia — nor, perhaps, retiring. Having expressed the intention to do so three months ago, Moore has talked over his future with Jack Rowell, England's manager, and may yet be seen in first-class rugby next season.

For now, however, Moore will be at the sharp end of a team that has rediscovered the self-confidence so evident during the five nations' championship, a team that believes it can impose a varied game upon the 1991 winners. Mind you, Australia have been making very similar noises to England after both countries came through their pool matches stuttering like a car short of fuel.

According to Bob Dwyer, the articulate Australia coach, tomorrow's clash could be the match of the tournament. He does not mean one full of open, flowing rugby — "I do not necessarily equate 'good' with 'open'", he said this week — but he does expect a well-contested encounter replete with high-quality play.

It is one that England, for all their occasional fallibility in the matter of scoring tries, have the capacity to win but they will only do so if the management has the right back row. A meeting between Tim Rodber, who early in the tournament was suffering from a stomach ailment, and Willie O'Flahangea promises

to be, in that oft-used antipodean expression "awesome" and, if the Australian front row is creaking as badly as some have suggested, then Rodber may have that precious extra second in which to play.

Dean Richards may remember an occasion in Sydney four years ago when Tim Gavin ran him ragged. Richards's well-being is vital to the inner confidence of England. In respect of tactical direction and his ability to deny Australia loose possession. Then there is Ben Clarke, the No 8 turned open-side flanker, against the genuine open side, David Wilson.

If Clarke discovers the form he showed for the British Isles against the 1993 All Blacks, we are in for a treat. England will then have a platform from which Rob Andrew, who has missed only three place kicks out of 15 here, can control the game against a side bearing so many similarities to England: both seek a structured game, both have outstanding goal kickers, outstanding centres, world-class wings.

Yes, while about David Campese, who could not resist this week a few incautious comments about the opposition? The leading try-scorer in the 1991 tournament, he has yet to make his mark here, while Rory Underwood has registered three tries: 90 caps play 82, 63 tries, 100 points.

"It will be a long time before England have such a talented group of individuals assembled together," Rowell said. "We must aspire to see that talent released on the field. To go and play international rugby successfully, which they have done, is a huge challenge to individual talent and rugby skill and you must have the mental equipment to go with it. This England team has become the nation's team and the game now goes well beyond those who actually play it. It has caught the national imagination."

Neither team can contemplate defeat. It would be a crushing blow, capable of ending some distinguished careers, either through retirement or the well-laden Rugby League purse. Dwyer is confident the strength of the Australian game will beat off the predators.

Yet sport is fickle — the bounce of a ball one way rather than another, a pass going to ground, a kick inches wide could turn the game at Newlands tomorrow. It is that close.



Richards in vital role



DAVID CAMPESE
Height: 5'11in
Weight: 168lb 250
Age: 32
International appearances: 98
Tries: 63

Wings aim to cast their mercurial spells

What is it that enchants about rugby, a sport so muscular, so hard and unflinching, which encourages the large and the small, the lean and the squat, the swift and the slow, but in which the eye is invariably drawn to the shoulder-to-shoulder confrontation? Rugby need not — should not — be confined to this. It can be a magical sport, and there are those with the capacity to enchant: those with wings on their heels.



Gerald Davies on the magical but contrasting qualities of rivals whose duel tomorrow could determine a World Cup quarter-final

Tomorrow, at Newlands, where England play Australia in the quarter-finals of the World Cup, two of the finest players of their generation, perhaps of any generation, oppose each other in a tantalising duel. If the chance comes their way, they will declare not only their cleverness but also their differences. Rarely have two such magnificent exponents of the wing three-quarters game contrasted so acutely in their talents than Rory Underwood and David Campese.

Their careers have almost run parallel. Campese, the Australian, began at 20 against New Zealand in 1982. Underwood, who will be 32 five days before the World Cup final, first appeared for England in 1984, against Ireland. Campese holds the Australian records of 90 caps and 63 tries. Underwood has the English record of 76 caps and 45 tries (he has also scored one in six appearances for the British Isles). Campese has also scored eight conversions, seven penalty goals and two dropped goals.

One can imagine Campese occupying any one of the positions in the back division. He has played 16 times at full back, and is a superb line kicker. Campese is the all-rounder. Underwood the specialist: one the ball-player, the other the quintessential sprinter. The Englishman may not rival the Australian for invention, but the latter cannot match the former for pace.

chance to redress it. Passing the ball over Jonathan Webb's head in 1989 to let Mike Hall in for a try, and miscalculating Iwan Evans's pace in 1993, Underwood cost England dear. To make amends, he scored twice in Cardiff earlier this year. Evans was also the player who embarrassed Campese in 1989 when the Lions wing took advantage of his lapse in the second international in Brisbane to score the try that opened the door for a series victory. In the opening match of this World Cup, he allowed Hendriks half a yard too far, which let in the South Africa wing.

But there is no perfection in sport, only moments of distinction. In any appreciation of Underwood and Campese we need to accentuate the positive, of which there is much, and eliminate the negative, of which there is little. One is incisively clinical, the other reveals bold and unorthodox improvisation. The classicist versus the romantic, if you like. There is a glorious defiance in Campese's play in the way he chooses to take the sportsman's chance. He asks questions of rugby's routine possibilities as much as of the range of his own talent. Underwood acknowledges the limits and plays expertly within them. Both have fulfilled their talents and have thus adorned the game. And enchanted us.

They have held their dignity, the RAF pilot and the Sydney sports shop owner, neither raising an arm in anger nor starting with a threatening eye. You can make your choice. Both have found their place in the sun.

ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
M J Catt (Bath)	M Burke (New South Wales)
T Underwood (Leicester)	D P Smith (Queensland)
W D C Carling (Hartlepool)	S Little (Queensland)
P J C Gascoot (Bath)	T J Horan (Queensland)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	D J Campese (New South Wales)
C R Andrew (Wales)	M P Lymagh (Queensland)
C D Morris (Cardiff)	G M Grogan (ACT)
J Leonard (Hartlepool)	D J Crowley (Queensland)
B C Moore (Bath)	P N Kearns (New South Wales)
V E Ugochi (Bath)	E J A McKenzie (NSW)
T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)	V O'Flahangea (New South Wales)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	R J McCall (Queensland)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	J A Bates (Queensland)
B B Clarke (Bath)	D J Wilson (Queensland)
D Richards (Leicester)	B T Gavin (New South Wales)
Replacements: D J Bishop (New Zealand)	* captain
REPLACEMENTS: 16 J E B O'Callaghan (Bath), 17 P R de Gier (Bath), 18 K P P Bracken (Bristol), 19 S O Ojomoh (Bath), 20 G R D Davis (Bath), 21 G C Howitt (Leicester).	REPLACEMENTS: 16 M J Pitt (Queensland), 17 S Bowen (New South Wales), 18 P J Sletty (Queensland), 19 D Mearns (New South Wales), 20 M Foley (Queensland), 21 M N Harris (New South Wales).

Never-say-die Ireland can rise to big occasion

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN DUBLIN

IRELAND play France at ten past one local time this afternoon in the first of the 1995 Rugby World Cup quarter-finals. The first thing that will have struck them when they arrived here in Durban on Thursday is the change of conditions. After their period at altitude, they are now at sea level. The climate is warm and heavy with humidity.

Three of France's matches took place in the coolness of early evenings, while Ireland also played twice under floodlights. They may feel more comfortable knowing that it is less difficult to adapt to coming down from 5,000ft than if it were the other way round. But it will not be easy.

Calculations and permutations, the Russian roulette of possible chances, are gone.

We have now arrived at the do-or-die bit; there is no second chance.

So, before we accept the multitude of opinion that seems overwhelmingly to favour France, bear in mind that, when the big moment comes and persistent, undying effort is called for, nobody responds better than the Irish.

Time and again they summon up the quickening spirit. They stubbornly refuse to submit when logic suggests, and the pundits predict. They do this annually in the five nations' championship.

Write them off, then, at your peril. Oh, and did I hear someone say that the European championship is different? So it is, as that rugby pilgrimage moves from one city to the next over a three-month period.

But cast your mind back to October 20, 1991. That was the

day that Ireland, at this same stage in the World Cup, scared mighty opponents — France, with but a couple of minutes to go against the ultimate victors, Australia, the No 8, running fully 40 metres, took Ireland into the lead. They were within a hair's breadth of a semi-final place.

They might have made it, too, had they, from Australia's restart, found a secure spot for the ball somewhere in the upper reaches of the stand. Instead, the Wallabies, showing great composure, manufactured a try for Lynagh to seal the game.

Pierre Berbizier, the French coach, admits that he is far from confident. His team shows three changes, with Army coming in at prop, Cecilian for the injured Benetton at No 8 and Hueber at scrum half, from the one

that defeated Scotland and it is far from cohesive. The other day, the coach took the "three trees" as he calls Cabannes, Roumat and Merle, through the recording of that game to show them where they were and where, in fact, they should have been.

France have lacked momentum among their forwards throughout this tournament and have relied too much on the individual spark, like that of N'Tarmack, to advance their cause thus far.

Thus, there is contrast. Ireland, with O'Mahony for Wallace as the one change from the Welsh game, will look for a frenetic, binding commitment from the pack to disturb the French. But Johns, McBride and Francis in the forwards and Elwood at stand-off half will surely not find the French as accommodatingly supine as were Wales.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DURBAN

FRANCE	IRELAND
J-L Badoury (Colomiers)	C M P O'Shea (Lansdowne)
E N'Tarmack (Toulouse)	D O'Mahony (JCD)
P Sella (Agen)	B J Mullin (Blackrock College)
T Lacroix (Dax)	J C Bell (Ballymena)
P Saint-André (Montpellier)	S P Geoghegan (Bath)
C Deylaud (Toulouse)	E P Elwood (Lansdowne)
A Hueber (Toulon)	N A Hogan (Terenure College)
L Armary (Lourdes)	N J Poplewell (Wespa)
J-M Gonzalez (Bayonne)	T J Kingston (Dolphin)
C Caffaro (Toulouse)	G F Harkin (London Irish)
A Bonazzi (Agen)	D Corkery (Cork Constitution)
O Merle (Montpellier)	G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution)
O Roumat (Dax)	N P J Francis (Old Belvedere)
L Cabannes (Racing)	W D McBride (Malone)
M Cecilian (Bourgnon)	P S Johns (Dungannon)
Replacements: E F Morrison (England)	* captain
REPLACEMENTS: 16 F Meenard (Racing), 17 V Delagout (Colomiers), 18 F Galtier (Colomiers), 19 A Cigagne (Toulouse), 20 P Gallat (Béziers), 21 L Benetach (Racing)	REPLACEMENTS: 16 P P A Dwyer (Dunfermline), 17 P A Burke (Cork Constitution), 18 M T Bradley (Cork Constitution), 19 E D Halvey (Shannon), 20 P Wallace (Blackrock College), 21 S Byrne (Blackrock College).

TODAY'S TEAMS IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA	WESTERN SAMOA
A J Jobson (Natal)	M Umaga (Wellington)
G K Johnson (Transvaal)	B Lima (Ponsonby)
C P Scholtz (Transvaal)	T Vaega (Moetaka)
J C Mulder (Transvaal)	T Fa'amasi (Vaimoso)
C M Williams (Western Province)	G Harder (Te Atatu)
H P le Roux (Transvaal)	F Sini (Merist)
J H van der Westhuizen (Natal)	T Nu'u'u'ile (Waimata)
P du Randt (Orange Free State)	M Mika (Otago)
C L C Rossouw (Transvaal)	T Lelasa-matava (Moetaka)
S Swart (Transvaal)	G Letu (Vaimoso)
J F Pienaar (Transvaal)	S Tatu (Ponsonby)
J J Wiese (Transvaal)	L Feleniko (Merist)
M G Andrews (Natal)	S Lemanea (SCOPA)
R J Kruger (Northern Transvaal)	P Paramore (Manurewa)
R A W Steyn (Transvaal)	P Lam (Merist)
Replacements: J M Fleming (Scotland)	* captain
REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Small (Natal), 17 B Venter (Orange Free State), 18 J P Roux (Transvaal), 19 A Richter (Northern Transvaal), 20 G L Pegal (Western Province), 21 N Drottske (Orange Free State)	REPLACEMENTS: 16 F Tulagi (Merist), 17 V Vitale (Vaitika), 18 S Kaitani (Merist), 19 S Heke (Merist), 20 B Heke (Merist), 21 P Fellestola (Manurewa).

Samoans vow to avoid humiliation

FROM DAVID HANDS IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa can now recoup the benefit of victory in the opening match of the World Cup: leadership of pool A has brought them through to a quarter-final with the battered Western Samoans at Ellis Park here, the ground where 13 of them shared a national record victory by 60-8 over the same opponents in April.

Indeed Kitch Christie, their coach, might almost have welcomed the diversions of the past week (had they not been so extremely painful to South Africa) as a means of shaking his players out of any sense of complacency. As it is, the team must shrug off the loss through suspension of

Pieter Hendriks and James Dalton, and the ludicrous sense of sympathy which has been felt in some quarters for them, and get on with the tournament.

That the team is expected to win is no doubt, nor should it be. The Samoans, nine of whom played here in April, have patched up their side yet still take the field wondering how long George Harder, who has a damaged knee, will last on the left wing and whether Junior Paramore can ignore the pain of a hairline fracture to the hand at flanker.

"There is a sense of confidence within the players that they can cope," Tate Sini, the Samoan manager, said. "We are out to avenge ourselves after that humiliation in

April." If the power of prayer can help, then the Samoans — devout people who hold a prayer meeting after each game — should not be discounted but the sheer size and strength of their opponents must surely mean another successful World Cup is about to end, as it did at the same stage against Scotland in 1991.

If April is any guide, however, they will take a few with them. Four South Africans wound up in hospital, among them Chester Williams who only now returns to international rugby, a symbol of a united nation.

His contest with Brian Lima should be worth the entrance money, so long as the Samoans can work some ball to their right wing, but today may be the occasion for

South Africa to increase their modest average of two tries a match.

This quarter-final is also the chosen venue for the International Olympic Committee's medical director, Patrice Schamasch, who arrived yesterday to assess the drug-testing programme being carried out by the World Cup authorities.

"If this event is run well it will argue well for South Africa when consideration is given to the summer Olympics of 2004," Michael Anderson, whose Kent-based company, Versapak International, is running the testing programme, said. "It pleases me, for the sake of rugby, that it has gone well thus far and it also pleases me for the sake of South Africa."



The perfect appetizer for frogs' legs.

PURE GENIUS.

Saturday portrait: Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum, by Julian Muscat

Racing waits to acclaim owner within reach of prize beyond riches

When you have been snubbed by the establishment, when you have persisted in the face of resentment, and when you have maintained dignity as others revel in your misfortune, the moment of triumph must be truly priceless.

Sheikh Mohammed, owner of Pennekamp, the overwhelming Derby favourite, today stands on the threshold of racing legend. It pays him handsome tribute that the summit is within reach, for the Sheikh, much maligned and hopelessly misunderstood, has had every conceivable reason to retreat from the racing game. Where others have wilted, he has drawn inspiration. Where others have resigned, he has grown stronger. Now, 20 years after he bought his first racehorse, most people want to smile with Sheikh Mohammed at Epsom. They are willing his Derby drought to end.

To observe this quest has been as tortuous as Ivan Lendl's pursuit of the Wimbledon title. If Lendl's robotic features were once anathema, the British tennis public was eventually charmed by the man behind them. So it has been with Sheikh Mohammed. Those once inscrutable eyes now glint in the light. He has acquired a new-found confidence. There is substance, after all, to the swash-buckling character we had heard of but never before seen. Indeed, should Pennekamp win, the racing world will gain its biggest insight yet into the man behind the mask.

That it has taken Pennekamp, a \$40,000 yearling purchase, to bring to life the Derby dream is hardly lost on the Sheikh. For years, Sheikh Mohammed, 46 and rich beyond imagination, has assaulted Epsom with horses of million-dollar backgrounds. Pennekamp is one of the cheapest yearlings he has bought. Yet it was he who once said: "Horses are not like motor cars. The most expensive is not always the winner."

The key to understanding this public transformation lies in what has gone before. Harmony was always a distant horizon when, in 1981, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai, unleashed a

spray of petro-dollars on the unsuspecting racing community. The spree was to peak two years later, when he gave \$10.2 million for an untested horse.

The price more than doubled the record for a yearling purchase, but the Sheikh was unmoved. In fact, Sraafi Dancer, as the thoroughbred was named, proved all but worthless. He never made it to the racecourse. However, initial excitement that the Sheikh was to race his horses in Britain quickly subsided under the weight of the Maktoums' ambition, with Sheikh Mohammed acting as its nucleus. His involvement reached monopolistic proportions in 1989, when he won seven of Europe's 15 leading classics and all three championship races at Royal Ascot. But his enthusiasm, which

'It is accepted that British racing would be in the doldrums but for his patronage'

knew no bounds, was to prove his Achilles' heel.

His racing and breeding operation expanded to a scale beyond sound management. At its height, more than 70 trainers of around 750 horses were employed in eight countries. Yet success in Britain, where he most desired it, proved elusive in the early 1990s.

It became evident that defeat served only to spur Sheikh Mohammed to an even greater frenzy of spending. Araz, the champion two-year-old of 1991, proved an irresistible bait. The Sheikh reportedly paying \$9 million for a half-share. It was all too much for public consumption.

However, Araz was to founder in the 1992 season, which, by all accounts, was to prove a watershed for Sheikh Mohammed. He was detained for fully six months before Zieten, like Pennekamp trained in France by André Fabre, garnered a first group one victory

for the maroon and white silks. This lengthy wait was seized upon by a majority of racing commentators, who could barely contain their glee at the insignificant returns from an operation costing well in excess of £1 billion to establish and absorbing some £350,000 a week in training fees.

That the sport's impression of Sheikh Mohammed has changed is due, in large measure, to two factors. An awkward impasse divided the Maktoums and the once-powerful Jockey Club, whose members were loath to welcome them into the racing community. But Lord Harrington, the former senior steward whose innovative approach brought down the Jockey Club's bastions, has since privately conveyed his appreciation of the Sheikh's involvement.

If that has made an enormous difference, the changing face of Sheikh Mohammed himself has been expressed through his hands-on involvement with Godolphin, the desert-based racing stable whose runners have excelled across the globe. To say that he has pioneered a revolution in contemporary thoroughbred attitudes is no exaggeration.

If resigned amusement greeted Sheikh Mohammed's announcement that a string of horses was to be trained under his daily supervision in Dubai, "the experiment", as it was dubbed, paid instant dividends. Godolphin's record has been well documented; yesterday, Moonshell won the Oaks, and today Vettori and Lammtarra run in the Derby. There is obvious pride in his achievements.

In Dubai, oil revenues that can be daily counted in their millions have transformed the 1,100 square-mile territory, on the banks of the Persian Gulf, into a thriving business community. From the sand have risen theatres to commerce and sport, principally the inspiration of Sheikh Mohammed, who remains the driving force. By his ten children from the same wife, Sheikhah Hind, he has more than ensured the project's continuity.

Although heavily Westernised, Dubai's heart remains its heritage. The process was initiated by the



late ruler, Sheikh Rashid, a dashing and popular man who led his warriors in camel raids on neighbouring territories. Sheikh Mohammed, his third son, is said to have inherited many of his traits. In hindsight, how could a man of his invention stand by and watch a plethora of trainers proceed with his horses? Godolphin, the tight-run stable, is an inevitable extension of the Sheikh's spirit.

Much remains to be learned

about Sheikh Mohammed, although he has proved as good as his word. He has maintained he will race horses in England for as long as he is wanted. Now, it is fair to say that he is wanted very much. It has been accepted that British racing would be in the doldrums but for his patronage. So comprehensively have he and his brothers reversed the flow of top-class horses to the United States that British racing is the envy of the world.

Records also show that he has cut back on the numbers which so overwhelmed existing owners. This corresponds with his uncharacteristically low-key approach to the yearling auctions last July.

The signs clearly point to the scaling down of an operation which spiralled, through enthusiasm, out of all proportion at the start of the decade. A more compact set-up would suit the racing industry and Sheikh Mo-

hammed, who has never lost sight of the fact that the thoroughbred originally descended from three Arab stallions.

He once said of the thoroughbred: "I love this breed. These animals are not machines. They are soul and flesh and blood." Now that Sheikh Mohammed has shown that he, too, is soul and flesh and blood, his marriage with the world of racing can finally flourish.

Pennekamp to give Epsom master-class

THE first Derby to be staged at Epsom on a Saturday since the Coronation year of 1952 can be crowned this afternoon by Pennekamp providing the most formidable owner-trainer partnership in Europe with their first success in the Blue Riband.

Sheikh Mohammed is the biggest owner of horses in the world and has invested untold millions in a so far unsuccessful pursuit of racing's ultimate prize. His hunger for victory has never been keener and Dubai's crown prince knows a relatively cheap 40,000 dollars purchase offers the best chance of ending a dismal Derby record which has seen all but one of his 14 Derby runners finish well out of the frame.

For André Fabre, the Chantilly-based trainer who has won nearly 300 group races since he took out a licence in 1978, success would fill one of the few remaining gaps in an outstanding career and, in the process, provide France with a much-needed Epsom winner.

Thirty years have passed since Sea-Bird, recently voted by readers of *Racing Post*, the specialist racing newspaper, the outstanding post-war Derby champion, crossed the Chantilly to run out one of the easiest and most spectacular winners of the race. Since then 44 French horses have made the trip to Epsom but only Empery, in 1976, has emerged triumphant.

The case in favour of Pennekamp is as watertight as one could wish in advance of any Derby. Unbeaten in his six starts, including three group one races, the latest of which saw him defeat Celtic Swing in the 2,000 Guineas, his form is sufficiently strong to have enabled him to win four of the last five runnings of the Derby. The exception is the outstanding Generous, who won for Paul Cole four years ago.

Those who wish to quibble with Pennekamp's first-class credentials will point to stamina and jockeyship. The son of Bering is not certain to stay the stamina sapping 1½ miles around Epsom but, as Fabre pointed out pertinently after winning the Guineas, if a horse is certain to stay the

Richard Evans believes the first Saturday Derby since 1952 will be graced by victory for an outstanding French-trained favourite

Derby trip his lack of speed will probably ensure he finishes fourth or fifth.

Bering, second to Dancing Brave in the 1986 Arm, has produced offspring which have tended to be best between a mile and two furlongs, while the sire of Pennekamp's dam was the non-staying French 2,000 Guineas winner, Green Dancer. Pennekamp certainly has an abundance of speed but there is plenty of stamina further back in the female line and his relaxed style of racing suggests he should get the trip.

Timeform, the respected racing analysts, state categorically he will stay 1½ miles. I

RICHARD EVANS
1. PENNEKAMP
2. Munwar
3. Tarnure

JULIAN MUSCAT
1. PENNEKAMP
2. Tarnure
3. Lammtarra

THUNDERER
1. MUNWAR
2. Pennekamp
3. Tarnure

GERALD HUBBARD
(Private Handicapper)
1. PENNEKAMP
2. Spectrum
3. Vettori

believe he will stay and win. Jockeyship is a trickier topic and tends to be laced with a fair share of xenophobia. It is true to say French jockeys, notably Freddie Head, have not excelled themselves around this unique course and Jarrett has some unhappy memories from a couple of years ago when riding Apple Tree in the Coronation Cup.

However, the three times French champion learned from his mistakes last year when winning the same race and his confidence will have been boosted by victory on

Yoush in yesterday's final race in which he rode a perfectly judged race on a horse ill at ease on the cambers and undulations.

The main danger to Pennekamp, on the form book at least, is Spectrum, the Irish 2,000 Guineas winner. Here again, stamina doubts persist as his dam has never bred a winner over 12 furlongs in spite of matings with stronger influences for stamina than Rainbow Quest, the sire of the Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained colt. I am far from convinced he will see out a truly run 1½ miles.

Peter Walwyn has never had Munwar, the Lingfield Derby Trial winner, in better form and, while the Lambourn trainer does not believe the Kalaglow colt quite has the class of Grundy, whom he sent out to win the Derby in 1975, he is every bit as good as Linden Tee and Oats, who reached a place in 1971 and 1976 respectively. If there is a chink in Pennekamp's armour, the galloping son of Kalaglow could be best placed to take advantage.

The fitter the ground the better for Presenting, whose disappointing run in the Dante Stakes can be attributed to the rain-affected going. However, I prefer the other Godson runner, Tarnure, who beat Sebastian at Newmarket and then retained his unbeaten record in the Glasgow Stakes at York despite not getting the run of the race.

Lammtarra, owned by the increasingly influential Godolphin team, is undoubtedly the dark horse in the race and Walter Swinburn has been making bullish noises about the impeccably bred son of Nijinsky and the promoted Oaks winner, Snow Bride. However, no horse has won the Derby on only his second outing on a racecourse since Morston 22 years ago.

Epsom awaits, page 1
Moonshell's Oaks, page 40
Raccards, pages 40, 41

DERBY RUNNERS, RIDERS, COLOURS AND FORM

COURT OF HONOUR



DAFFAQ



FAHAL



HUMBEL



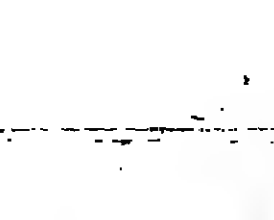
KORAMBI



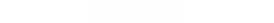
LAMMTARRA



MARALINGA



MUNWAR



3.50 VODAFONE DERBY STAKES

(Group 1: 3-Y-O: £473,000: 1m 4f 10yd) (15 runners)

401	(15)	6131-22 COURT OF HONOUR 13 (B,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	B Thomson 82
402	(11)	42-503 DAFFAQ 12 (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 9-0	B Rouse 51
403	(12)	431-46-3 FAHAL 18 (F,S) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) D Morley 9-0	R Hills 61
404	(8)	11-11 HUMBEL 28 (F,S,S) (Dr M Shumilov) D Wald (In) 9-0	M J Kinnear 87
405	(14)	00-641 KORAMBI 21 (D,F) (B Voss) C Britain 9-0	M Roberts 73
406	(7)	1- LAMMTARRA 302 (B) (Saeed Maktoum Al-Maktoum) Saeed bin Suroor 9-0	W R Swinburn 71
407	(10)	019-132 MARALINGA 25 (B) (D & Mrs J Oliver) M Bell 9-0	M Fenton 77
408	(3)	31-11 MUNWAR 28 (F,S) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) P Walwyn 9-0	W Carson 85
409	(5)	1111-11 PENNEKAMP 35 (F,S,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabre (Fr) 9-0	T Jarrett 88
410	(2)	11-113 PRESENTING 24 (B,F,B) (S Stawbridge) J Gosden 9-0	C Ammann 89
411	(8)	312 RIYADIAN 28 (B) (H H Prince Fahd Salmen) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn 84
412	(1)	31-5 SALMON LADDER 24 (S) (M Arbib) P Cole 9-0	K Darley 74
413	(4)	1-11 SPECTRUM 20 (F,S,S) (Lord Walstock) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid 95
414	(13)	111 TAMURE 23 (D,F,B) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori 90
415	(9)	41-1 VETTORI 27 (B,S) (Maktoum Al-Maktoum/Godolphin) Saeed bin Suroor 9-0	R Cochrane 94

BETTING: Coral: 6-4 Pennekamp, 7-2 Spectrum, 6-1 Tarnure, 10-1 Munwar, 12-1 Lammtarra, Presenting, 16-1 Humbel, Riyadian, Vettori, 25-1 Salmon Ladder, 66-1 Court of Honour, Fahal, 160-1 Korambi, 200-1 Maralinga, 1,000-1 Daffaq.

Ladbrokes: 11-8 Pennekamp, 7-2 Spectrum, 7-1 Munwar, 9-1 Tarnure, 10-1 Presenting, 16-1 Humbel, Lammtarra, Vettori, 25-1 Riyadian, 40-1 Salmon Ladder, Court of Honour, 66-1 Fahal, 200-1 Korambi, Maralinga, 1,000-1 Daffaq. Total: 11-8 Pennekamp, 100-30 Spectrum, 10-1 Munwar, Tarnure, 12-1 Lammtarra, Presenting, 20-1 Vettori, 25-1 Humbel, 33-1 Riyadian, Salmon Ladder, 40-1 Court of Honour, 66-1 Fahal, 200-1 Korambi, Maralinga, 500-1 Daffaq. William Hill: 11-10 Pennekamp, 9-1 Spectrum, 9-1 Tarnure, 12-1 Munwar, Presenting, 16-1 Humbel, Lammtarra, 20-1 Vettori, 25-1 Riyadian, 33-1 Salmon Ladder, 50-1 Court of Honour, 66-1 Fahal, 200-1 Korambi, Maralinga, 1,000-1 Daffaq.

1994: ERHAAB 9-0 W Carson (7-2 fav) J Dunlop 25 ran

COURT OF HONOUR 1st 2nd of 12 to Luso in group 1 Derby trial at Capenelle (1m 4f, good to firm). Previously head 2nd of 7 to Luso in the 7-runner group 11 Deham Chester Vase at Chester (1m 4f 85yd, good to firm) with MARALINGA 41 3rd.

DAFFAQ 2nd 3rd of 4 to Bessie of Boring in a conditions race at Chesham (1m 2f, good to soft).

FAHAL short-head and neck 3rd of 6 to Fehre in a listed race at Goodwood (1m 2f, good to firm).

HUMBEL best Shemara neck in the 8-runner group 11 Deham Stud Trial at Leopardstown (1m 2f, good to firm).

KORAMBI best High Standard 41 in a 7-runner handicap at Newbury (1m 4f, good to firm).

LAMMTARRA best Myself 41 in a 6-runner listed race at Newbury (1m 4f, good to firm) with Daffaq 2nd 3rd.

MUNWAR best RIYADIAN head in the 7-runner group 11 Triplemint Derby Trial at Lingfield (1m 3f 109yd, firm).

PENNEKAMP best Celtic Swing head in the 11-runner group 11 Madagars 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket (1m, good to firm).

PRESENTING 4th 3rd of 5 to Classic Cliche in the group 11 Homebush Dante Stakes at York (1m 2f 85yd, good to firm) with SALMON LADDER 5th 8th.

SALMON LADDER previously best DAFFAQ 7th in a 4-runner maiden at York (1m, good to soft).

SPECTRUM best Asterisk 11 in the 9-runner group 11 Fast National Building Society Irish 2,000 Guineas at The Curragh (1m, good to firm).

TAMURE best Minda Minda neck in a 5-runner conditions race at York (1m 2f 85yd, good to firm). Previously best Sebastian 11 in Newmarket conditions race (1m 4f, good to firm).

VETTORI best Abacus short-neck in the 8-runner group 11 Dubai Poulx d'Essai des Pouliniers Stakes at Longchamp (1m, soft).

Selection: PENNEKAMP

VETTORI



TAMURE



SPECTRUM



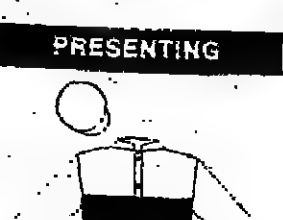
SALMON LADDER



RIYADIAN



PENNEKAMP



PRESENTING



DAFFAQ



English endeavour must not dull flair

Little bit of magic worth much more than loss of pride

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE final weekend of a painfully extended football season divides us in heart and mind. It would be nice, this afternoon at Nottingham, if Japan could claim at least a point in the Umbro Cup from Sweden, and thus take some reward for their attempt at catch-up on the world game.

And tomorrow? Brazil, who have attracted spectators in the Midlands and the North like bees to honey, play England. This is the real division. Do we, as patriots, want to see England triumph, a victory that almost certainly would entail duffing the Brazilian flair? Or are we men enough to hope for a third and final glimpse of the beautiful game, the amalgam of craft, technique and joyous expression that the world champions have brought to our last season?

Unashamedly, I am in the latter category. The 1995 Brazil is, if anything, on a slightly higher level than the more worldly, more pragmatic XI that won back the World Cup in the United States last July. Within months of that achievement, Brazil began

their transition and so in England this past week, we have witnessed at Roberto Carlos, 22, the gale-force full-back with the potent left foot. We have seen Juninho, also 22 but at 5ft 4in, with the appearance of a schoolboy, provide that missing creative element, a third attacker playing just behind the front two.

The incomparable Romario, fulfilled and almost instantly disinterested by winning the ultimate trophy, has all but disappeared. Bebeto has been engaged with his Spanish club, Deportivo La Coruña. In their place Edmundo, 24, almost as hypnotically in control of the ball as Romario, sometimes as irresponsible, is paired with Ronaldo, 18, full of youthful exuberance.

How will England cope? We need to knock a few of them over, Barry Venison, who may well have been among Terry Venables's team had he been fit, commented. "We need to get David Batty among them, upset them a little."

Heaven forbid. If England were to contain Brazil's fireworks by spoiling the game, then Pleat had his year of success as manager of Tottenham Hotspur, taking them to third in the first division and to the FA Cup Final in 1987. He left in the winter of 1987 after personal problems made the headlines, but his return to a big club, if one that has rarely threatened to disturb the major powers, is belated.

While Brazil and England are taking part in an exercise of the footballing skills, even if unwittingly in England's case, at Wembley tomorrow, Ireland and Austria will be playing for serious stakes in Dublin. Both know that a win is central to their hopes of qualifying for next summer's European championships.

A week ago writing such a thought was almost unthinkable, but Ireland's failure to win in Liechtenstein, however, suddenly opened up group six. A win tomorrow for Ireland would make that a minor failure. In a week of astonishing results, Northern Ireland threw away their hopes of exploiting Ireland's stumble by losing at home to Latvia.

this observer would rather see six Brazilian goals. So, undoubtedly, would Pleat, who flew into London yesterday. Pleat, now the Minister for Sport, will cast his eye over the little, darting maestro, Juninho, who dares to wear his No 10 jersey.

Supposing, just supposing, that England dare to meet attack with attack, an option that many professionals favour? The word is that Brazil, with both full-backs, Jorginho and Roberto Carlos, adventurous, might be vulnerable to the cross from the flanks.

Thomas Ravelli, the Sweden goalkeeper who faced England on Thursday, has a view on that. "England hit a lot of very easy crosses," he said. "They hit them high, and most of them are catchable." Nevertheless, since crosses did enable England to score late goals that glossed over dire embarrassment against both Japan and Sweden, that route, particularly involving Darren Anderton, and the free kicks of Paul Gascoigne are found to figure sooner or later.

Only Venables knows how soon. Gascoigne has been peripheral, except when the pace of games has slowed and he, coming on as a substitute, was a reason not only because of his attacking scalp but because his timing of the ball, his ability to hold and then strike it, set him so clearly apart from other Englishmen.

Television replays showed that there is still a reckless, destructive streak in him, the elbow to the fore. But should England, attempting to set a rhythm of their own, risk Gascoigne from the start, playing him and, if need be, substituting him this time when his lack of full match fitness shows?

It is a wretched conclusion of the past week that, in our depleted squad, this half-fit athlete has almost no rival in importance to the team. A Gascoigne hit-part has registered more than the ungainly efforts of so many others. And, alarmingly, Venables, still the hero for English football as the man who can coach tactics beyond the long ball, observed on Thursday that England had improved their attacking movement, but they had sacrificed even basic stability in defence.

That sounds as if attack and defence are exclusive entities. It was John Saldanha, who built the 1970 Brazil team, who observed: "Football is like a short blanket in winter. If you keep the neck warm, your feet get cold. The art is to live within that blanket."

More prolonged dominance on clay and they were both crowned here. Guillermo Vilas began his unbeaten sequence of 53 matches when he won here in 1977 and Bjorn Borg embarked on his undefeated run of 44 matches two years later on his way to the second of four successive titles.

Chang's efficiency, which has a numbing effect on opponents and spectators alike, was too much for Sergi Bruguera, the holder, to endure. After being worn down over 2½ hours, he was asked to forecast the outcome of the final. His reply was dramatically terse: "Muster in three."

Kafelnikov offered a revealing insight into the dreaded experience of taking on the 27-year-old Austrian. "It is like being in a Rocky movie when you go into the small ring with him," the bright 21-year-old Russian said. "You feel like a

Sherry runs into form just in time for final challenge

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

GORDON SHERRY, who is probably the best amateur golfer in Britain and Ireland, having finished second in five leading amateur events starting last June, will play Michael Reynard, the Worcestershire amateur champion, in the final of the Amateur Championship at the Royal Liverpool Club at Hoylake this morning. Yesterday, Sherry moved into a higher gear from his previous performances in the event this week and beat Roger Beames, a fellow Scotsman, by 4 and 2 to reach the final for the second year in succession.

Sherry has taken his time to mature to his best form at Hoylake, but he seems to be close to it now. Whereas he started slowly in every preceding match, being down at the turn in most of them, against Beames he was three up after six holes. Sherry's swing looked rhythmic on a magical summer's afternoon of sun, lark-song and a north-westerly wind. Beames, on the other hand, has a quicker and shorter backswing and was fighting both a hook from the tee as well as the intimidating factors of Sherry's experience, skill and his left-hand presence.

Sherry came through a tight match in the morning, defeating David Howell, the England international and Walker Cup squad member, by one hole after being three down with six to go. Sherry then carried on playing as well after lunch as he had at the conclusion of his morning match.

"When I was three down with six to go this morning, I thought I was down the road," Sherry said. "But then, having beaten David, I relaxed and the more relaxed I was, the better I played." It was the first of Sherry's matches that did not go up the 17th.



Reynard plays to the 14th green in the Amateur Championship at Hoylake yesterday

In the final today, Reynard, a 33-year-old reinstated amateur, may still be shocked by the manner of his semi-final victory when he won the last four holes against Jody Fanagan or he may be able to carry on where he left off. Fanagan presented Reynard with two of the holes — the 15th and 17th; Reynard made sure of winning the other two with magnificent shots.

On the 15th, he laid a 30-yard bunker shot three feet

from the hole. On the 18th, when, by his own admission, he said he felt like jelly, he played his shot of the week — a seven iron from the rough that bounded on to the green and came to a halt 18 feet from the flag. He holed it for a victory that four holes earlier had seemed most unlikely.

Reynard had been due to fly to Portugal on holiday this morning. His first act after shaking hands with Fanagan was to telephone his travel agent and after his booking to

Sunday morning and hope that, in the event of his winning today, he would not have celebrated so heavily he would be unable to catch that plane, too.

Sherry, 21, is the favourite for today's 36-hole final after playing so consistently in the past 12 months, but Reynard would not discount himself altogether. After all, he recovered from the dead to beat Fanagan, the funeral director from Dublin. He can upset the odds once more.

Masterly Langer enjoys home rule

FROM MEL WEBB IN HAMBURG

THE agony and ecstasy of the Royal and Ancient game of golf was perfectly illustrated by the fortunes of two men in adjacent groups in the Deutsche Bank Open Tournament Players' Championship yesterday. For one the day was an unalloyed success, to the other it brought nothing but embarrassment and misery.

Bernhard Langer is a formidable adversary at any time, but put him into a tournament in his native land and he becomes even more remorseless. He has eight tournament victories to his name in Germany and took a huge step

towards making it nine when he had a perfect 66 at Gut Kaden to finish on 133, 11 under par and four shots ahead of his nearest pursuer, Jamie Spence.

Langer had hardly signed his card before John Daly tottered into the recorder's tent bearing a card full of calamity and a head full of bewilderment. He dropped five shots in the first five holes, finished with a humbling 77, and walked away a confused and unhappy man, having missed the cut by two shots.

"It was a bad, bad round of golf," he said. "My good shots turned out bad, and my bad shots worse. I'm as much in shock as anybody."

Daly endured many low spots on a chilly northern German day, but nowhere was his depression deeper than on the 3rd, a par-five of 537 yards, where he drove out of bounds and finished with a double-bogey seven.

"The out of bounds is only five feet from the bunker out there," he said. "I couldn't believe it was out." Only a blitzer with his strength could have got there in the first place, proving for the millionth time that power alone does not always bring glory.

Another to tangle with fate and end up with a bloodied nose was Peter Baker. Missing a putt on the 5th hole, his left, he tossed his putter at his bag

and bent the shaft. The playing characteristics of the club had changed, so he could no longer use it, and he had to improvise with his sand-wedge and three-iron. A 74 put him out of contention.

Langer, meanwhile, had a start that was as good as Daly's was bad, with birdies on five of the first six holes. He holed putts from 15 feet and 25 feet on the first two, and after setting for par on the 3rd, picked up further shots on the 5th, 6th and 7th.

He had played only a third of his round but was already ten under par and drawing away a sixth birdie on the 17th made it 11. Spence and the rest will have their work cut out.

Muster ready to claim clay-court crown

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

OFFICIAL recognition as the world's prime clay-court player awaits Thomas Muster. He has already gained the unanimous respect of his peers and, providing he does not submit to tennis's version of the Chinese water torture when he meets Michael Chang tomorrow afternoon, he will be the French Open champion.

Intimidating for his powerful aggression, he has built an aura of invincibility around his muscular frame. In dismissing Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who had stretched Andre Agassi to the quarter-final, he extended his sequence of victories on his favourite surface to 34.

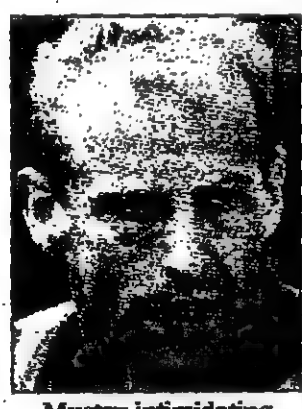
Only two other men in the open era have established a more prolonged dominance on clay and they were both crowned here. Guillermo Vilas began his unbeaten sequence of 53 matches when he won here in 1977 and Bjorn Borg embarked on his undefeated run of 44 matches two years later on his way to the second of four successive titles.

Chang's efficiency, which has a numbing effect on opponents and spectators alike, was too much for Sergi Bruguera, the holder, to endure. After being worn down over 2½ hours, he was asked to forecast the outcome of the final. His reply was dramatically terse: "Muster in three."

Kafelnikov offered a revealing insight into the dreaded experience of taking on the 27-year-old Austrian. "It is like being in a Rocky movie when you go into the small ring with him," the bright 21-year-old Russian said. "You feel like a

small moth against a big elephant."

Mentally beaten before he started, his burgeoning talent was splattered all over the centre court throughout a one-sided contest lasting a mere 82 minutes. Muster, winning points even when the strings



Muster: intimidating

of his racket had broken, burst through to his first grand slam final, 6-4, 6-0, 6-4. Whatever Kafelnikov's tactics, staying initially behind the baseline or advancing to the net, they failed. "I tried my normal game in the beginning and that didn't go too well," as he put it. "I then tried something else and that didn't go too well either. He's like a wall. He's unbeatable."

In 1989, the same year Chang became the French champion at the age of 17, Muster's left knee was damaged — irreparably, it was feared at the time — by a drunken driver. His limb and career rebuilt through an exhaustive fitness regime, he reviews the incident philosophically. "Maybe someone made me suffer and is paying me back on Sunday."

Whereas he has developed a faith in his own ability, Chang believes in God to whom he constantly refers. The patience of Job is required to play against him and to watch him. In the time Muster had qualified for the final, he and Bruguera were still negotiating the second set.

The ensuing tie-break alone, which Bruguera conceded 7-5, took nine minutes to complete and ten of the dozen points were lost rather than won. Chang, with his industrious retrieving, induces first errors and then a sense of heavy fatigue. His opponents grow weary, the crowd drowsy.

Towards the end of the third set, Bruguera, unbeaten in his 19 previous matches at Roland Garros, could take no more. Although he broke Chang to lead 5-4, he immediately relinquished his advantage and made seven successive mistakes to yield the tie-break to love and go out 6-4, 7-6, 7-6.

THE ARMY CORPORALED his sapper. The next instruction is to learn to follow, rather than always lead. Komen won the junior 5,000 and 10,000 metre titles from the front. Kiptanui wants him to watch videos of his races to correct his mistakes. The Commonwealth Games 10,000 metres is Komen's horror show: he ran the first lap in 57 seconds, reached 1500 metres in 3min 40sec, but finished ninth. He was at a loss to explain his early laps. I tried to slow down but my legs were in momentum," he said.

Kiptanui's sense of propriety dictates that, even after five world records and two steeplechase world titles, he expects no selection favours for the world championships, but to have to qualify by finishing in the top three of the Kenyan trials.

"It is not a right," he said. "I do not want to upset the third person."

THE PARIS (three-day match, MCC 187 and 380-9) was won by P. Hughes 52, Oxford University 34-2-0. Hughes 52, Oxford University 34-2-0. Hughes 52, Oxford University 34-2-0.

GAP: France: Chiriac du Dauphiné: 1st stage (180km, Auvergne-Gap): 1. G. Tardieu (F) 2. J. S. S. 3. J. S. 4. J. S. 5. J. S. 6. J. S. 7. J. S. 8. J. S. 9. J. S. 10. J. S. 11. J. S. 12. J. S. 13. J. S. 14. J. S. 15. J. S. 16. J. S. 17. J. S. 18. J. S. 19. J. S. 20. J. S. 21. J. S. 22. J. S. 23. J. S. 24. J. S. 25. J. S. 26. J. S. 27. J. S. 28. J. S. 29. J. S. 30. J. S. 31. J. S. 32. J. S. 33. J. S. 34. J. S. 35. J. S. 36. J. S. 37. J. S. 38. J. S. 39. J. S. 40. J. S. 41. J. S. 42. J. S. 43. J. S. 44. J. S. 45. J. S. 46. J. S. 47. J. S. 48. J. S. 49. J. S. 50. J. S. 51. J. S. 52. J. S. 53. J. S. 54. J. S. 55. J. S. 56. J. S. 57. J. S. 58. J. S. 59. J. S. 60. J. S. 61. J. S. 62. J. S. 63. J. S. 64. J. S. 65. J. S. 66. J. S. 67. J. S. 68. J. S. 69. J. S. 70. J. S. 71. J. S. 72. J. S. 73. J. S. 74. J. S. 75. J. S. 76. J. S. 77. J. S. 78. J. S. 79. J. S. 80. J. S. 81. J. S. 82. J. S. 83. J. S. 84. J. S. 85. J. S. 86. J. S. 87. J. S. 88. J. S. 89. J. S. 90. J. S. 91. J. S. 92. J. S. 93. J. 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Lara's innings ends with an ungainly heave at a ball from Illingworth. Hick going full stretch at slip to hold the catch. The West Indian left-hander had made 53

First-session failings give West Indies whip hand at Headingley

England surrender initiative

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (second day of five): West Indies, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 37 runs ahead of England

EVEN Raymond Illingworth, who has never been much good at delegating, is having to accept that there are some things he cannot do for his team. Both as selector and manager, Illingworth has spent this week emphasising that England must avoid starting yet another series at their lowest ebb, but in two hours yesterday morning the players showed that it takes more than fine words and firm intentions to cure their compulsion.

It took only this single session to undermine the weeks of planning, the days of anticipation, and the hours of patient labour put in by Michael Atherton, the England captain, on Thursday. A sequence of aberrations by the batsmen was followed by half an hour of wilful bowling. It was cricket of crass indiscipline, and it handed control of this first Cornhill Test match to West Indies.

When a cricket team has had its inheritance plundered, which equates to how the West Indians felt after losing to Australia, self-esteem is inevitably low. England's priority was to ensure that it remained that way, not to nurse the patient back to health and confidence with a generous donation of wickets and runs.

England did claw back a

little ground in the final session, when their bowling responded to need rather than adrenaline, but by then Darren Gough was inactive, a back strain having sent him from the field after three profligate overs in the phase of the game when the damage to his team, it may transpire, was irreparable.

To feel comfortable, England had needed a total of 300, and at start of play it remained feasible, despite the loss of two important wickets in the closing minutes of a weather-beaten first day. What they needed was a session of consolidation, bating of care and attention. What they did not need was to lose their two remaining specialist batsmen to strokes more appropriate to a Sunday slog.

Mark Ramprakash has never previously commanded the automatic Test place that was

his for this game but, for all his evident talent, it was earned on slim evidence, and might prove a transient privilege. He was not alone in getting out to the cut stroke — Smith and Hick fell similarly on the first day — but both the ball, which was too straight, and the circumstances, too precarious, should have discouraged him from playing it in Ian Bishop's first full over of the day.

Alec Stewart's dismissal took still more explaining. He waited loosely across a straight ball from Bishop, aiming towards mid-wicket and succeeding only in edging to second slip. England suddenly had their extended tail exposed, and the demeanour of the touring team was visibly uplifted.

For the 20,000 Yorkshiremen in the ground, hope sprang eternal with the en-

trance of Gough. The billboards for the Yorkshire Post had proclaimed: "England rely on Gough batting", and a banner, dropping from a balcony outside the ground, urged: "Go Get 'Em Goughie". They cheered him all the way to the middle, and they roared their approval as he hooked his first ball from Bishop with immense bravado. But the acclaim stuck in their throats as Ambrose made ground to his left at fine leg and plucked the ball out of the air. Gough out first ball. Day ruined for half the crowd.

But for Bishop, who had now taken five for five in 18 balls, it was the return to Test cricket he can have imagined only in his dreams.

When Peter Martin preferred a neurotic village-green now to give Ambrose his first international wicket of the tour, England had plunged to

157 for eight. Six wickets had fallen for 15 runs, as dire a decline as any in the history of recent years. DeFreitas and Richard Illingworth did their best to salvage the ship, putting on 42 for the ninth wicket, but Kenny Benjamin clinically closed the innings and, to their great surprise and relief, West Indies were batting 35 minutes before lunch.

The seventh wicket fell instantly. Devon Malcolm's first ball demanded a stroke from Hooper and climbed enough to take the edge. Thorpe, at first slip, circled triumphantly with the catch, and we all wondered whether there would be much of this match left by tea-time.

It is not Brian Lara's way to acknowledge situations in which mere mortals are cowed. By the end of the

opening over he had expansively carved two fours to third man, and when he first faced Gough, he drilled an exquisite straight drive to the pavilion. Malcolm was withdrawn with the startling figures of 2-0-24-1, and Gough took his leave to spend a painful afternoon on the treatment table.

England will feel that the fates now mocked them, for the weather improved with every hour and, by the evening session, West Indies were batting under clear blue skies. Lara reached 50 from 40 balls with a series of strokes identified early and played impressively late, before letting himself down with a head-up submission in Illingworth's second over.

Illingworth bowled an 18-over spell capably, slowing the scoring rate without resorting to negative line and fields. But it needed a run-out, secured by a direct hit from DeFreitas at mid-off, to remove Sherwin Campbell for a lively 69, and it was a long time after that before England broke through again. West Indies, indeed, were in front when Jimmy Adams's composed innings ended with a top-edged sweep against Hick and although Richardson's disorientation continued with a woeful stroke to give Martin his first Test wicket, these were no better than consolation points for a chastened England.

Letters: 19
At Lord's: 37
Michael Henderson: 37
Northants win: 37

HEADINGLEY SCOREBOARD

West Indies won toss

ENGLAND First Innings
R A Smith c Richardson b Benjamin 16
(35min, 48 balls, 1 four)

*M A Atherton c Murray b Bishop 61
(121min, 145 balls, 8 fours)

G A Hick c Campbell b Benjamin 18
(35min, 24 balls, 4 fours)

G P Thorpe lbw b Bishop 20
(107min, 68 balls, 3 fours)

*A J Stewart c Hooper b Bishop 2
(30min, 17 balls)

M R Ramprakash c Campbell b Bishop 4
(12min, 10 balls)

P A J DeFreitas c Murray b Benjamin 23
(57min, 27 balls, 4 fours)

D Gough c Ambrose b Bishop 0
(1min, 1 ball)

1P J Martin c Murray b Ambrose 2
(3min, 5 balls)

R K Illingworth not out 17
(42min, 28 balls, 1 four)

D E Malcolm b Benjamin 0
(3min, 4 balls)

Extras (b 1, nb 15) 16
Total (69.5 overs, 288min) 189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62 (Atherton 31), 2-81 (Atherton 48), 3-142 (Atherton 77), 4-149 (Stewart 1), 5-153 (Stewart 1), 6-164 (DeFreitas 0), 7-154 (DeFreitas 0), 8-157 (DeFreitas 1), 9-199 (Illingworth 17).

BOWLING: Ambrose 17-4-55-1 (nb 8); 7-3-12-0, 5-0-10-0, 5-1-25-1; Walsh 18-2-50-0 (nb 2); 4-1-13-0, 8-1-33-0, 1-0-4-0; Bishop 16-2-38-5 (nb 2); 2-0-4-0, 14-2-24-5; Benjamin 13-5-28-4 (nb 6); 9-1-47-2, 3-1-10-0, 1-0-3-2.

WEST INDIES First Innings
C L Hooper c Thorpe b Malcolm 0
(1min, 1 ball)

S I Campbell not out (DeFreitas) 99
(132min, 101 balls, 9 fours)

B C Lara c Hick b Illingworth 88
(71min, 56 balls, 10 fours)

J C Adams c Martin b Hick 59
(155min, 109 balls, 10 fours)

K L T Artherton not out 36
(103min, 121 balls, 5 fours)

*P S Richardson lbw b Martin 0
(11min, 32 balls, 1 four)

*J R Murray not out 14
(41min, 32 balls, 1 four)

Extras (b 0) 0
Total (55 mins, 21 overs, 283min) 236

1R Bishop, C L Ambrose, C A Walsh and K C G Benjamin to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Campbell 0), 2-95 (Campbell 42), 3-141 (Adams 13), 4-216 (Artherton 30), 5-219 (Artherton 33).

BOWLING: Malcolm 7-0-48-1 (2-0-24-1, 3-0-18-0, 2-0-6-1); Gough 3-0-24-1 (one apoc); DeFreitas 15-0-38-0 (7-0-34-0, 6-0-22-0, 2-0-3-0); Martin 19-4-35-1 (4-0-13-0, 6-0-13-0, 9-4-13-1); Illingworth 24-8-60-1 (18-4-43-1, 6-5-7-0); 4-0-15-1 (one apoc).

Umpires: H D Bird and S Venkataraghavan.

TV replay umpire: P Wiley.

Match referee: J R Field (New Zealand).

Match adjudicator: D Lloyd.

MATCHES TO COME: June 22: Lord's, July 6: Edgbaston, July 27: Old Trafford, August 10: Trent Bridge, August 24: The Oval.

Compiled by Bill Fendall

Schumacher gets timing right in qualifying

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN MONTREAL

THE drivers left it late before they burst out into the sun on the Ile Notre Dame yesterday. The track stayed eerily silent while they played their waiting game, estimating the best possible time to make their qualifying runs. Michael Schumacher emerged last of all in his Benetton-Renault and laughed longest.

He watched from his garage as first Jean Alesi, in a Ferrari, and then Damon Hill, in a Williams-Renault, set the quickest times on the hump-shaped track in the middle of the St Lawrence Seaway. Then, when it seemed there was hardly time for him to drive his allotted number of laps, he strapped on his helmet and roared away.

Schumacher is flying at the moment, confidence coursing through him after back-to-

back wins in Spain and Monaco in the last two races. After the uncertainty and tension of the early part of the season, when he seemed uncharacteristically vulnerable, he now appears more relaxed and assured than ever.

After a twitch on his first quick lap and an altercation with a slower car on the next one, which momentarily ruined his chances of a competitive time, the world champion carved more than half a second off Hill's time and then extended his advantage on the next lap. It was an impressive display of his current superiority.

Hill saved his best effort until last, but was still left nearly 0.4sec behind the German, who leads the world championship by five points and is the hot favourite to win tomorrow's 69-lap race on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. Gerhard Berger, in a Ferrari,

was third-quickest yesterday. Alesi was fourth.

Hill and his team-mate, David Coulthard, who was fifth-quickest, were both optimistic that they could improve their times in the second qualifying session today, but rain is forecast so that particular luxury may not be afforded them. In any case, Schumacher appears so dominant that it seems more likely he will

extend his lead rather than see it pegged back.

"I am not too disappointed with the time," Hill said. "Obviously, it would have been nice to be pole position, but it is very important to be on the provisional front row because of the threat of rain here tomorrow. I am also being troubled by a cold, which I think is a product of the air conditioning in our

hotel." Apart from Schumacher's bravura performance, it was also a day when another German heaped credit on himself, although this time it was off the track. Formula One is a notoriously fickle business with contracts apparently being agreed and broken in the blink of an eye. Heinz-Harald Frentzen, a team-mate of Schumacher's in their sports car days, backed the trend yesterday.

He is not having the happiest of times with Sauber-Ford this year, despite his burgeoning reputation as one of the hottest properties in the sport, mainly due to the normal teething troubles in the new partnership between engine manufacturer and team. Yet he still managed to rebuff an attempt by McLaren-Mercedes to lure him away.

McLaren apparently wanted Frentzen to replace Mark Blundell after the Canadian

Grand Prix to fill the yawning gap left by the premature departure of Nigel Mansell before the Monaco Grand Prix. Frentzen is a Mercedes darling and much-admired by other top teams in Formula One, including Williams, but the 28-year-old German made it clear yesterday that he would not be moving, although he admitted that one can never say never in grand prix racing.

"I believe there was an approach" by McLaren," Frentzen said, "but I have a contract with Sauber for the rest of the season and I want to repay the faith that the team showed in me by bringing me into Formula One in the first place. If McLaren want to talk to me about next season, then obviously that is a different matter. In any case, I am not sure that Sauber or Ford would let me go even if I wanted to this season."

Cup progress a tall order for Bayfield

Rob Andrew identifies the areas England must exploit if they are to beat the Australians tomorrow

England have not waited four years to take part in the World Cup only to lose in the quarter-finals — and I know the Australians feel the same. You can sense the urgency about the England players, in team meetings, in training.

Australia won the World Cup in 1991 but their hunger for success will not have gone and it would be a huge disappointment to them, and their public, were they to find themselves on the flight home after tomorrow's match in Cape Town.

People have talked about revenge and perhaps, if this were the final, there would be a parallel. But it isn't. If we win the next match will be against either New Zealand or Scotland, and we have to look towards that and beyond. Nor were many of our side involved in the 1991 final, particularly the forwards.

But if we are to win it must be done up front, and specifically at the lineout. There are two significant factors there: the number of throw-ins we offer them and whether we can disrupt their jumpers in the same way that South Africa did in the opening match of the tournament.

If Australia win too much clean possession, their ball-retention skills are good and they will launch waves of attacks. Of the kind that earned tries against South Africa for Michael Lynagh and Phil Keatinge. Obviously, they will win a proportion of their own throw-ins, but if the link between Lynagh and his forwards can be broken, we will have achieved much.

When our own game is in gear we are good at winning first-phase ball, launching attacks and re-cycling ball and, we hope, creating space for our strike players. Nor do Australia know our players in the same way that they did in 1991: they will have looked at videos but that is different from actually playing against the likes of Tim Rodber, Ben Clarke and Victor Uboh.

Or of playing against Martin Bayfield. Prior to 1991 we seemed to have been playing against Australia every other year and when they beat us soundly in Sydney in the

summer of '91, Bayfield was young and inexperienced. Now he is just about the finished article and around him is a younger pack which might have an edge on an Australian eight much the same as in the 1991 final, but four years older.

By a quirk of fixtures we have played several times over the last four years against South Africa and New Zealand, on their patch and on ours. We have beaten them, too, whereas Australia have gone on their way, establishing something of an aura of invincibility.

We respect Australia as one of the world's best sides, but

TODAY
France v Ireland (Dublin, 12.15, ITV live)
South Africa v Western Samoa (Johannesburg, 2.30, ITV live)

TOMORROW
England v Australia (Cape Town, 12.0, ITV live)
New Zealand v Scotland (Pretoria, 2.30, ITV live)

Diary
Hastings call 30
All Black test 30
Ireland's task 30
Wings take flight 30

we have proved that, on this day, we can live with anyone. Nor are they the exceptional side of 1991, which was made complete by two players Nick Farr-Jones and Simon Poidevin. You don't replace that sort of ability easily. Farr-Jones was in a class of his own at scrum half and Poidevin was such a strong player on the flank, a natural leader, who allowed others to get on with their game.

We have our own natural leader among the forwards in Dean Richards. I wonder if the Australians are still looking for theirs and whether George Gregan can play at the required level. He is a talented player, but he is inexperienced and he is not Farr-Jones. The area of back row and scrum half may be one we can exploit.

We don't want to be going home just yet.

Interview by David Hand

You know what Campo said about Carling? Bull.

(Will's men to win by 6-10pts: 6/1)

AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND

Cape Town, kick off 12.15 pm tomorrow. Live on ITV. 1991 AUSTRALIA 19/11 ENGLAND (4pts) 14/1 TIE

Presented the scores with England leading by 1 point.

First Team
1/1 D. Gough 4/1
1/1 D. Smith 7/2
1/1 R. Underwood 11/2
1/1 T. Underwood 12/2
1/1 J. Guscott 4/1
1/1 J. Horan 4/1
1/1 J. Little 12/1
1/1 W. Carling 12/1

Winning Points
Australia win by 1-5 points
Australia win by 6-10 points
Australia win by 11-15 points
Australia win by 16-20 points
England win by 1-5 points
England win by 6-10 points
England win by 11-15 points
England win by 16-20 points

NEW ZEALAND v SCOTLAND

Pretoria, kick off 2.30 pm tomorrow. Live on ITV. 19/11 NEW ZEALAND 19/11 SCOTLAND (4pts) 14/1 TIE

Presented the scores with Scotland leading by 14 points.

First Team
1/1 M. Ellis 4/1
1/1 J. Lomu 7/1
1/1 F. Bunc 11/2
1/1 W. Little 12/2
1/1 J. Wilson 4/1
1/1 K. Logan 4/1
1/1 K. Hastings 12/1
1/1 C. Jones 12/1

Winning Points
New Zealand win by 1-5 points
New Zealand win by 6-10 points
New Zealand win by 11-15 points
New Zealand win by 16-20 points
Scotland win by 1-5 points
Scotland win by 6-10 points
Scotland win by 11-15 points
Scotland win by 16-20 points

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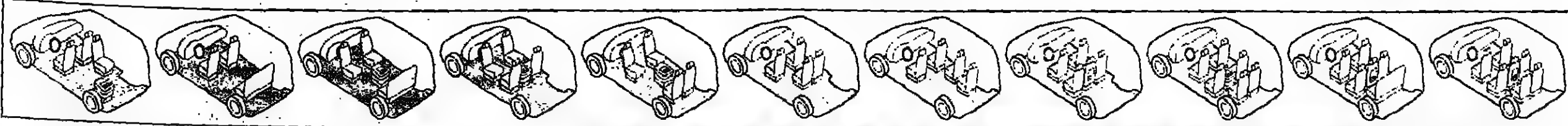
A Ferrari
that travels
thrillingly
back
in time
page 12



Another
chance
to win
a Rover
Tourer
page 2



SATURDAY JUNE 10 1995



Forget about macho off-road vehicles — if you want to move your car seats around as easily as you shift your living room furniture, enter the age of the multi-purpose vehicle, says **Kevin Eason**

It's time to put wheels on your lifestyle

Now I can reveal it: what every best-dressed motorist will be wearing this season. Throw away the keys to the estate and put the off-roader back in a field where it belongs: the new fashion on the streets will be the people-carrier.

Like designers parading the latest frocks on the catwalk, carmakers are flinging hundreds of millions of pounds into their latest supermodels to convince motorists that their present transport is not chic and that they simply must change to something new.

If you are not convinced they mean business, look at the line-up of names waiting in the wings with models dressed and ready to drive into the spotlight. Ford, Volkswagen, Peugeot, Citroën, Fiat, Vauxhall and Chrysler all have people-carriers — or multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs) — on their way to Britain.

Not far behind will come models from Rover, Mercedes-Benz... and any other self-respecting manufacturer that wants a piece of the action. Honda is making one that costs £23,000 — almost the price of a decent Jaguar — and Daihatsu is sending one as big as a Metro and costing only £8,000.

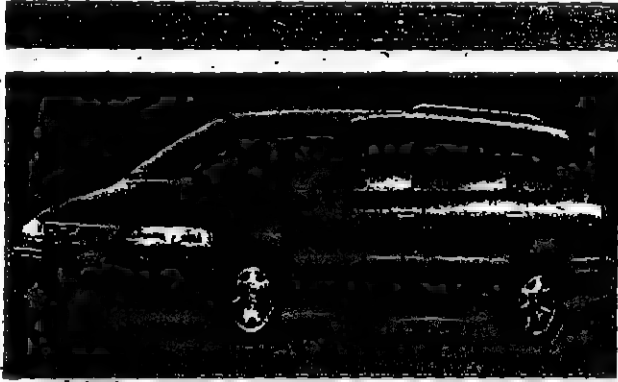
People-carriers could have 5 per cent of all sales within five years — about 100,000 in Britain, twice as many as current sales of 4x4s. Ask Tom Pallister, Ford's marketing director, whether Britain will take to vehicles that stand as high as a van but drive as meekly as a car, and he claims the sky is the limit.

He says: "In 1982, American sales for these vehicles were only 12,000; last year they reached 1.4 million, which represents a growth of over 100 times in 12 years, and annual sales could top two million by the year 2000."

"We just don't know how many sales there could be in the United Kingdom but our experience in America suggests that the growth here could be huge."

It will need to be: Ford has joined forces with Volkswagen to produce a vehicle for both companies — the Ford Galaxy and the Volkswagen Sharan — at a factory in Portugal that can pour them out at the rate of 100,000 a year. An alliance between Peugeot, Citroën, Fiat and Lancia will be manufacturing at about the same rate. The Japanese will not be standing back idly watching.

Unlike 4x4s, none of the MPVs will carry a Made in Britain sticker. The nearest we get is sharing the design on the Galaxy and providing a 2-litre engine from Ford's Dag-



One of the most expensive MPVs yet launched, Honda's Shuttle, based on the Accord saloon, features a folding mechanism that allows the rear bench seat to be secreted neatly into the floor, leaving a wide, flat load area. Available only with automatic transmission.



The Daihatsu Hijet, the first mini MPV, provides six seats in an area shorter and slimmer than a Metro and at £7,995 it is more than £5,000 cheaper than its nearest rival, the Nissan Serena. If Noddy ever grew up and had children, he would drive them to school in this

Dagenham plant in Essex. But why swap your Soft-Init-buff Land Rover Discovery for a Ford Galaxy anyway? Lifestyle, the Ford marketing men say. Apparently, nobody goes out for a drive in a car any more, so you load up the vehicle that suits your "life needs".

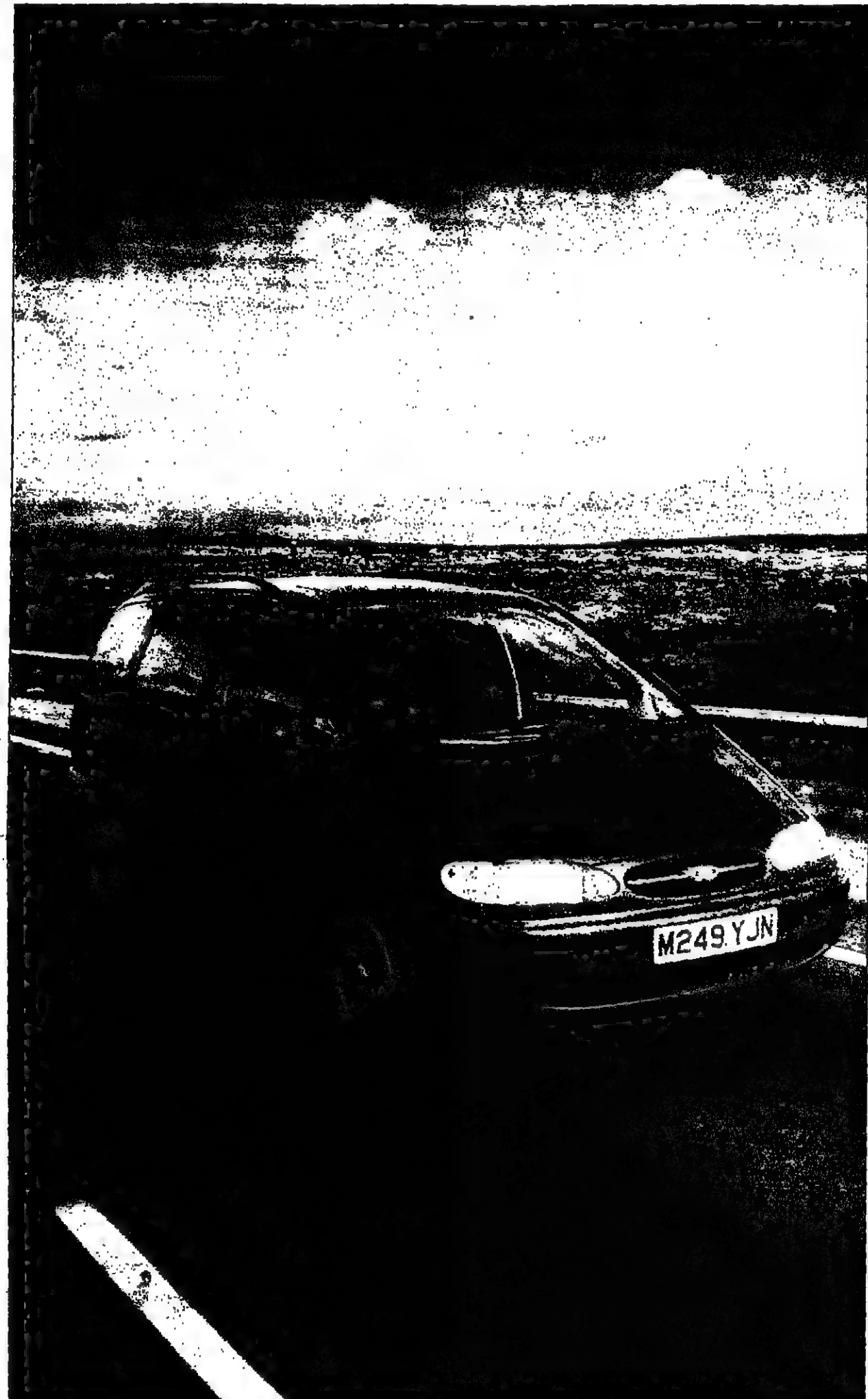
In the beginning was the saloon, a simple box on four wheels with an engine at the front, the passengers in the middle and luggage at the back. The concept was good but everybody had to have one, even families. DIY men who wanted to load the contents of Do-it-All into the back and slings whose long poles, balanced precariously from the back seat, poked the driver in the eye each time he turned around.

And so the estate was born, but generations of boxy Volvos garnered the image of fuddy-duddy family-movers with 2.3 children and stripped-pine furniture. Enter the off-roader... It was the ultimate fashion statement for the drivers who needed space but wanted to stick out from the

crowd like a Des O'Connor fan at a Take That concert. The marketing people say that the MPV is all those things to every driver: saloon, estate car and bulky load-carrier. Renault thought of it first, and ages ago, with the Espace, but the competition wants to move the concept on a stage further — like Ford with the new Galaxy, one of the first vehicles onto the catwalk from about July.

The Galaxy can carry seven people. But, surprisingly, it is only as long as a Mondeo and handles more like a car than some of its competitors, which are derived from vans. Mr Pallister says: "All the feedback we got was that people liked the concept of a vehicle like this but were put off by the size. Women, particularly, liked the idea of sitting high up on the steering wheel but disliked having to climb in, and the thought of handling such a big vehicle."

The trick will be to cut across all ages, family sizes and leisure interests to find an audience big enough to support the expectation of the manufacturers.



The Galaxy, a people-carrier Ford will produce with Volkswagen at a factory in Portugal at a rate of 100,000 a year

Ford's marketing people asked 49,000 motorists what they wanted and found not only drivers with big families considering vehicles that double as saloon and estate. Retired motorists wanted something to carry the grandchildren at weekends, health freaks wanted something to carry their mountain bikes to the lakes and families wanted a vehicle big enough to carry the children safely — and enough luggage for a fortnight.

The carmakers just have to convince you that you need one. If they are all as good as the Galaxy, they might just manage it. The Galaxy was designed in partnership with VW, mainly in Germany but also at Ford's design centre in

Dunton, Essex. The result is a vehicle with the tough reassurance of a VW and some of the style that has been invading Ford cars recently.

It looks more like an inflated executive car than a minibus, although it will carry seven people in reasonable comfort. Up front, the driver and passenger can barely feel the difference: the driving position is high, as in a 4x4, and the nose protrudes from a deep windscreen, but the dashboard is the same and the switchgear is familiar from VW cars.

The Galaxy and the Sharan — details of which are due to be announced next week — share everything under the bonnet, including the Dagenham 2-litre or a 2.8-litre V6 from VW (diesels come later).

The only differences will be in exterior styling. The manual 2-litre will also deliver an average 28mpg compared with 25 for the V6.

On the road, the Galaxy drives like an executive saloon, the gear throw — adapted from the Mondeo — is swift and sure and the vehicle easy to push around corners.

The Ford 2-litre package feels more cohesive, while the 124mph 2.8 version seems like gliding the lily, turning family transport into an outlandish 170bhp mean machine.

The "lifestyle" cues are all there: separate rear heater, power point and seats that undip to be replaced by everything from a refrigerator to cycle racks. You can flip and swivel the seats into six differ-

ent positions, put them down to use airline-style food-and-drink trays or leave behind a row of seats to increase luggage space.

In fact, the Ford Galaxy is, well... a multi-purpose vehicle, and at prices close to the estate-car competition, such as the Mondeo (£12,800 to £21,000), the Peugeot 405 (£16,000 to £18,000) and the Volvo 850 (£18,000 to £25,000). The Galaxy starts at £15,995 and goes up to £23,300 for the bells-and-whistles Ghia version.

Yet I wonder whether there are enough people out there not working a 60-hour week to survive their negative equity and with time to enjoy one. But perhaps the marketing people will be proved right after all.

Taking a virtual route to a test drive

Try the ultimate test drive: a trip to the beach without leaving the showroom, Kevin Eason writes. Ford yesterday revealed the Galaxy system that will transport potential car buyers to the world of virtual reality. Instead of poring over brochures, customers simply strap on a headset and go for an imaginary drive.

They watch virtual pedestrians, admire the virtual scenery, turn on the virtual radio and open or shut virtual electric windows with their virtual hand. At the same time, they can choose the colour of the upholstery and change around the rear seats of the seven-seater people carrier.

The company has been testing eight of the £35,000 virtual reality simulators at county shows and exhibitions. They will now be installed in show-



Looking into the future in the Galaxy simulator

rooms as dealers discover they do not need to stock large numbers of the real thing when they can use the simulator to show customers what they are buying. Uschi Englert, the Ford executive co-ordinating the Galaxy launch in Britain, says: "The feedback we are getting from customers is very positive."

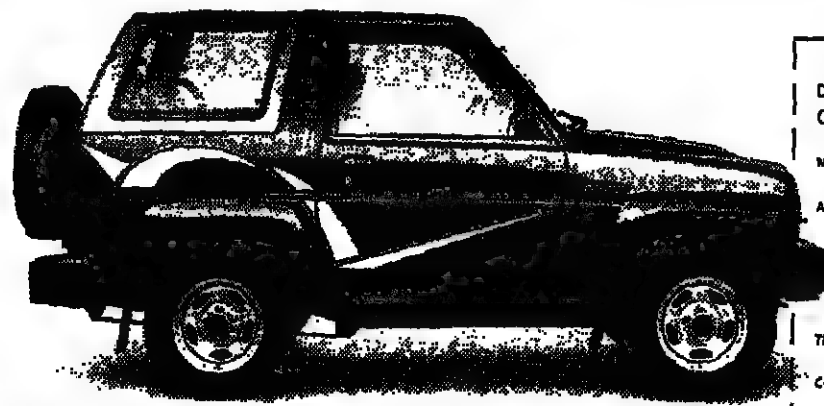
Virtual reality could go even further, for Ford is planning to test simulators on which to train mechanics. The headset picture could guide trainee mechanics around the inner workings of the engine compartment without them getting a single oily thumbprint on the paintwork. "That is something we are keen on," says Ms Englert. "We can take mechanics into the closest detail by computer."

The Galaxy software took four months to programme by designers from the Virtually Group in London and IBM, which is manufacturing the system at Greenock, Scotland. Photographs of the Galaxy were scanned and digitised into computer form so that everything seen through the headset reflects the exact dimensions and layout of the vehicle. Customers sit in a seat taken from the front of a Galaxy and don a lightweight headset with handset, which manipulates an imaginary on-screen hand.

Then a virtual chauffeur takes them on an imaginary four-minute ride, through town and country, even avoiding an errant virtual truck which pulls out in front of the Galaxy.

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THE AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON
England play Brazil at Wembley today (kick-off 4pm). Hold-ups can be expected on the A406, A404 and A40. Trooping the Colour is on at Horse Guards between 10am and 1pm next Saturday.

● A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton. Road width reduced on the Lea Valley Viaduct until the end of the year.

● A219 Putney Bridge. Reduced to one lane each way for repairs.

● A501 Clarendon Rd, Clarendon Rd junction with Farnington Rd. Road closed for bridge works until May 1996.

● SOUTH EAST
● M25 J12 (nr M25, Kent). Contrail for maintenance with extra lane closures overnight (until mid-June).

● A3 Guildford, Surrey. Major roadworks between Stoke Interchange and Compton. Long delays daily.

● A21 Coopers Corner, Kent. Major roadworks start on Monday 5th June, with temporary lights at the junction with the B2069 (nr the Cross Keys Pub).

● A27 Sturton, Sussex. Closed between the A29 junction and the Ford Road roundabout from 6am to 6.30pm tomorrow. Diversion via A294 and Whiteways roundabout.

● SOUTH WEST
● M5 Avon. Two separate contrail for major roadworks, between J19 and J17 (Portbury-Bristol West) and J17 and J16 (Bristol West-Almondsbury). The southbound entry slip road at J16 is also closed.

● M5 Gloucestershire. Two separate contrail for roadworks, between J12 and J11 (Gloucester, Cheltenham) and at J9 (Tewkesbury).

● A417 Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Contrail on the Barnwood Bypass, between the Gloucester Trading Estate and C & G roundabout (until mid-July).

● A4018 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Roadworks continue on the High Street at the junction with Tewkesbury Road and Gloucester Road. A temporary one-way system is operating.

● A36 nr Norton Saint Philip, Somerset. Major roadworks at junction with A369 (until July).

● A3074 Carbis Bay to Saint Ives, Cornwall. Roadworks with two sets of temporary lights working around the clock (until July).

● A36 Penryn, Cornwall. Traffic using just two lanes on the river bridge during maintenance (until October).

● ISLANDS AND EAST ANGLES
● M1 nr J21 (Leicester). Contrail with only 2 lanes running southbound (3 northbound) which causes regular delays (to exit south to services or J21 stay in the left lane).

● M6 West Midlands J5-6 (A462-A384). Contrail with three narrow lanes each way and some restrictions on the slip roads at J6. A46 Stonebridge, West Midlands. Flyover construction at the A462

junction & widening between the M42 J8 & Stonebridge Island (until July).

● A1123 nr Dudley, West Midlands. One lane closed each way on the Birmingham New Rd, between Burnt Tree Island and the Tipton Rd junction.

● A453 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire. New major roadworks under way on Clifton Lane between Faber Drive and Clifton Bridge (until start of September).

● A47 Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. New traffic lights are being installed on the Soke Parkway at the junction with Bourges Boulevard. Lane closures will cause delays (Sundays on Monday 12 until October).

● NORTH
● M6 Lancashire J29-32 (Bamber Bridge-Broughton). Widening works with only two lanes southbound at J31 (Sarnesbury), until mid-July.

● A1 Dinnington, North Yorkshire. Two narrow lanes each way through a contrail until the end of June.

● A158 Dinnington, North Yorkshire. Temporary lights at the bridge over the A1 (until mid-June).

● A19 County Durham. Major roadworks between Peterlee and Heworth.

● A41 Merseyside. Contrail on the Mersey Bypass (until mid-June).

● A1 Stannington, Northumberland. Lane closures for bridge work. Long delays expected through the rush hour (until July).

● A1059 Jesmond Road, Newcastle. One lane each way on Cradlewell Bypass, until September.

● A48 Dwyld, Contrail in place west of J45 of the M4 (Port Abraham), for construction.

● A467 Newport, Gwent. Contrail on Forge Lane while improvement work is under way on the A48 between J28 of the M4 and the Tredegar Park Roundabout.

● A5 Maesdy, Chwyd. Improvements continue at the Glyn bends. Various restrictions until end of July.

● A4223 Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. One-way system operating on Gelliford Road because of widening work (until July).

● A448 Gwent and A40 between Newport and Monmouth. Major works with lane closures reducing much of route to one lane.

● SCOTLAND
● M90 Tay-side J10 (Priarton Bridge). Northbound lane closure together with a contrail overnight.

● M5 Strathclyde J16-18 (Towhead-Charing Cross). Outside lane closed westbound.

● A91 Kirkcaldy, Fife. Width restrictions on St Clair Street for roadworks (until July).

● A8000 nr South Queensferry, Lothian. Temporary lights at Kirkcaldy Road for roadworks (until August).

● Edinburgh, Lothian. Width restrictions on the High Street between the North and South bridges (until July).

● NORTHERN IRELAND
● M1 nr J10 (Lurgan). Contrail for major roadworks with the westbound entry and exit slip roads at J10 closed (until June 4).

● A26 Ballymoney, County Londonderry. Temporary lights on Greenhill Road at the junction with the bypass until September.

Accidents looking for somewhere to happen are all too common on our debris-strewn highways

Don't rubbish the motorway rules

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

Accidents will happen. The Concise Oxford defines an accident as an event that is "without apparent cause, or unexpected". This being so, we are overly prone to inquiry and investigation when high-profile accidents happen, often followed by legislation out of all proportion to the original event.

There has been no better illustration in recent years than the ridiculous insistence on all-seater football grounds since the Bradford fire and the Hillsborough tragedy, two events having nothing in common bar their context. But let us take two recent events on the roads and, resisting impulsive conclusions, see what they teach us about road safety.

The M4 coach crash in which 13 people died and the subsequent incident elsewhere in which a driver was killed when he tried to remove a shredded tyre from the carriageway had in common the presence of debris on the road and deaths related to it.

Those of us who spend more time on motorways than we would care to log well know that this kind of accident was looking for somewhere to happen. It happens with alarming frequency, but usually without attracting much public attention.

There is too much junk on our motorways but I am not in the lobby that says more should be done about removing it. The highway authorities have vehicles that clear up junk periodically, and I daresay we have all complained about being stuck behind one, or having to slow down at the sight of its yellow flashing lights.

To suggest, as some have, that these vehicles ought to be out more often is to say that what our motorways need is yet another slow-moving truck getting in our way. This approach is like using painkillers to treat toothache: it confuses the symptom with the disease. The prob-

lem lies not with the people charged with removing rubbish but with the people who dump it.

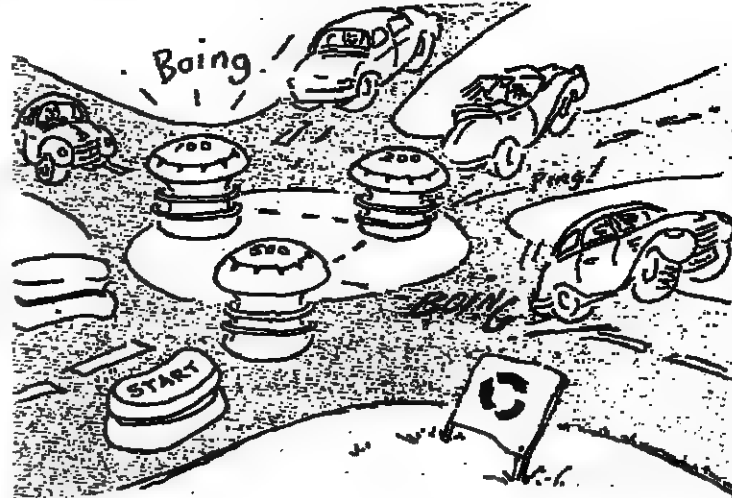
Last year, not five miles from the site of the recent coach crash, one of my daughters narrowly escaped injury when a pile of red-and-white planks used to define roadworks slipped off a pickup truck and hit the front of her car, removing the number plate. The lorry sailed on obliviously. The police were less than enthusiastic when this was reported to them.

But lorries are far from the only culprits. Twice recently I saw people in cars toss plastic bags from their windows, and one of them, which was black, flattened itself on my windscreen, effectively blinding me.

There are plenty of regulations covering unsafe loads and dangerous behaviour on the highways. The only further role for the authorities is for the police to mount a campaign against transgressors and magistrates to impose swinging fines.

We are a mucky nation on the whole but the point where our nasty habits start killing people is the point at which we need to start enforcing existing powers.

I AM standing near a mini-round-



about counting vehicles. One hundred go through the junction, of which 77 ignore the little white blob and drive straight across that junction. Of the 23 that do not, four are showing L-plates. But don't worry, they'll learn.

As the Government discovered over the poll tax, that which is generally disdained might as well be dumped. On the other hand, there are junctions which are neither one

thing nor another — not large enough for a grown-up roundabout, too large for no markings at all.

Uncharacteristically, I am not sure whether we need to do away with mini-roundabouts and revert to give-way signs or build little walls around the roundabouts so that anyone trying to drive straight across will do so only once. I feel confident that where I do not have an opinion, you will.

Edward Marriott hires a bike and joins mean machines at the Isle of Man TT

Lure of a deadly game

The death toll is as grim as it is predictable — already this year's Isle of Man TT has claimed eight lives. So why, every June, do 40,000 bikers descend on this tiny otherwise blameless, tax haven? Why, when they know they will be risking their lives on the island's wild, unregulated backroads, do they come back year after year?

This, anyway, was what my wife has wanted to know ever since I booked my ferry ticket from Liverpool to Douglas back in March. Two weeks ago, as the TT loomed, she insisted I make a will.

What she understood, all too well, was that it is this very element of danger, the fact that the Isle of Man has no speed limits on its country roads, that draws bike fanatics from all over Europe. They care little that the actual TT (Tourist Trophy) championship is considered too dangerous to qualify as a world championship circuit and, therefore, no longer attracts the top riders.

This year both Steve Hislop and Carl Fogarty, previous Formula One winners and course record breakers, are sitting out the race. Their decision is not hard to understand: last year Hislop's friend Mark Farmer crashed and died in practice. Hislop and Fogarty have come to prefer

the safer, shorter and specially built world championship circuits, which lack the Isle of Man's pitted roads and awkwardly placed buildings.

The fans, however, have no such scruples. To them, the lure of riding the course, which winds round more than 1,000 corners, through 37 miles, to a summit of 400 feet, is irresistible. They bank into the hairpins, looses to the ground, gunning through third to second, engine oil sharp in their nostrils, forgetting in the blur of speed, the bald facts: 160 competitors killed since 1911; an average of ten fans killed each year.

I, however, am an altogether different breed of biker, a greenhorn with a still-crisp, two-year-old licence. Fearful the hardened bikers would scoff at my aging Honda Transalp, I took the bold step of hiring a Yamaha XJ900 for the weekend. Until we joined the exodus onto the Liverpool ferry to Douglas, I had thought this "sports tourer" would draw admiring gasps. Wrong. Strapped into the hold of the ferry was the latest and most brutal motorcycle technology — 168mph Honda Fireblades, Ducati 916s, Triumph Speed Triples. Mine was a pygmy beside these monsters.

Alan Welbeck, 38, a plumber from Barnsley, was typical. Now on his eighth TT, he leaned on his M-reg Suzuki GSXR 1100 and explained his addiction to speed: "Yes, it is dangerous, and yes, I do probably drink a little too much, but I wouldn't miss it for the world. Everyone's here for the same reason — you can do 150 and no flashing blue light is going to pull you over. There's no hassle, no trouble, no yobs. It's just bikers together."

Certainly, if you don't fancy pub conversations about rear-end chatter and the merits of Kevlar padding over leather, there are few reasons to brave the Isle of Man during TT fortnight. And neither the music — hoary rabble-rousers Suzi Quatro and Showaddywaddy running through decades-old routines — nor the cuisine — chips and burgers and more chips — are likely to change your mind.

Even the side-shows are bike-related. Every night, thousands gather along the seafront at Douglas to witness the bizarre, time-honoured spectacles of "wheelie-chucking" and "doughnut burning" (spinning the back tyre until it bursts). On Friday night the crowd was kept entertained by a biker who reeved up and down the promenade wearing only a helmet, thigh-length boots, and underpants pulled down to expose a moon-pale bottom.



Ambulances are an unfortunate necessity on the world-famous Isle of Man circuit, where riders reach 140mph

In the Isle of Man, which benefits from TT fortnight to the tune of about £14 million, the white-helmeted lawmen just smiled. Even those pulled over for speeding in town or reckless driving do not have their convictions transferred to their UK or EC licences.

When I finally came to brave the course, it was with considerable foreboding. Twice in the first mile, clocking a respectable 90 along a high-hedged straight, I was forced sideways by twin yellow Triumph Daytonas, touching at least 140mph. Climbing, shaky-kneed, from my bike afterwards, it felt sweet, even miraculous to be alive.

In the pub were donor card forms: "Help someone to live after your death. Fined to the wall, a poster with two skeletons on bikes, read: "Leave the races to the aces".

The locals, wisely, do their best to keep off the roads during the TT. Yet, despite all the high-octane madness, many welcome the bikers and reject the idea of a speed limit. Brian Partington, the vicar of St John's, a village in the centre of the island, has lived on the island for 27 years. For him, each TT is exciting. "The Isle of Man's one of the last places where you have the freedom to travel as fast as you like. Long may it last."

'Help someone to live' say the donor cards

THE TIMES

Win a Rover 400 Tourer

The Times, in association with Rover Group, is offering readers a chance to win a turbo diesel version of the sporty Rover Tourer worth £15,395.

And to help you get the most from your outdoor trips, we have teamed up with HI-TEC Sports to give away some of the latest walking boots and sandals to 25 further winners — ten pairs of Kings Peak II, ten pairs of Lady Kings Peak II and five pairs of Whitewater sandals.

For your chance to win simply attach six of the tokens printed to the application form below. You may send in as many entries as you wish, but each must be on an official form, accompanied by six tokens. Send to:

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I enclose six tokens from The Times and wish to enter the draw.

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ADDRESS

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DATE PURCHASED: MONTH YEAR

IS THE CAR PRIVATELY OWNED? COMPANY

WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU WILL REPLACE THE CAR?

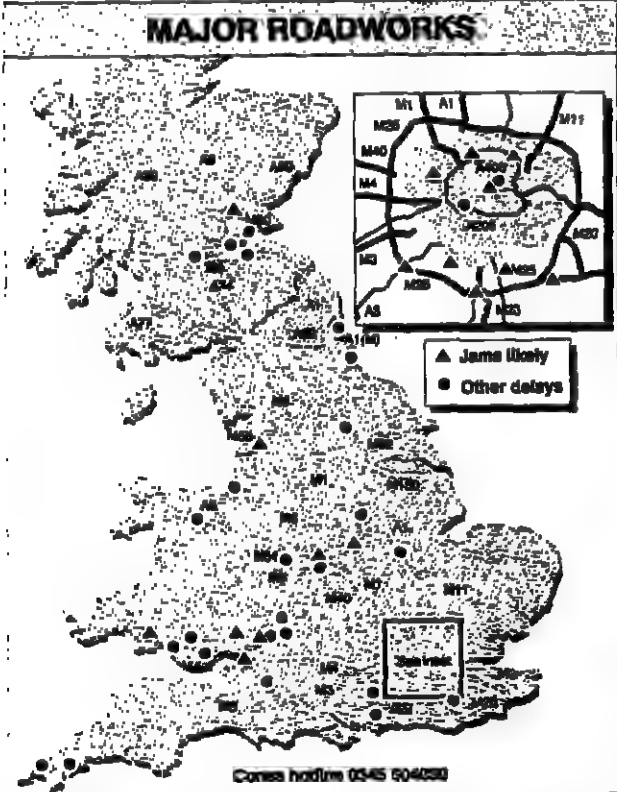
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WHICH ROVER ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further mailings from The Times or Rover Group

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The Times Tourer Competition, 11 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 3NG. The competition closes on June 24. For further information on the Tourer call 0345 186 186.



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Vaughan Freeman goes racing in a suburban workhorse whose makers decided to add vroom appeal

How I took a Volvo estate to 140mph

Climbing aboard Volvo's racing 850 British Touring Car Championship estate, I had certainly looked the part — crash helmet crushing my airway, pyjama-style speed suit on, race harness buckled ferociously around the nether regions — before hurtling down the pit lane and out on to the circuit to see what all the BTCC fuss is about.

I was the first British journalist to drive this car, yet within seconds I was cursing it for an apparent and appalling handling problem which then forced me into the pits, where I explained the difficulty to my tutor for the day, the saloon car champion Tim Harvey. Politely, gently, in a test of will power that only just kept his widening grin from outright laughter, he clarified problem and remedy. "You're driving too slowly," he said. "The front tyres are not getting a chance to warm up and are out of balance. That's why they are juddering. You must go faster."

Thanks, Tim. Bathed in sweat, deafened by the engine and hideously uncomfortable in a car that is all steel roll cage and sharp edges, I gathered the shreds of my confidence and set off again, trying desperately to remember the morning's tuition.

It had all seemed such a good idea — come and drive the Volvo 850 estate that campaigned so successfully in last year's championship, and which, having gained a boot and a rear wing, is the basis for this season's racing Volvo, a saloon car.

Of course, there'd be a few problems handling the car, but nothing the man from *The Times* couldn't handle — after all, isn't his family runabout a Volvo estate? The fact that the former Formula 1 champion Nigel Mansell had been unable to keep his Ford Mondeo on the tarmac during a guest BTCC appearance should have rung more alarm bells.

The morning had begun in a small classroom as Tim, the 1992 BTCC champion, outlined the basics of the Donington Park circuit. Then there was the 300bhp 850 estate. Like the road-going 850, it has a two-litre, five-cylinder engine. There, all similarities end. This car is happiest at the sort of revs, in excess of 6,500, that would melt most engines. Its top speed is about 140mph, but it shines most in its acceleration and speed through corners — two and three times more than the fastest sports car.

Soon, Tim was talking about clipping the apex of snatching fifth through corners and of blind brows at them. Then there was the gear change in the briefing that the gearchange is not the normal H-shaped arrangement, but a sequential back-and-forth affair that must be pulled straight back to go up the gears and straight

In a race, there are 23 other nutters on the track

side. It is clinically white, stripped of everything, although purposeful switches and buttons are everywhere. Even through the ear plugs and helmet, the noise obliterates everything and affects your concentration. Strangely, amid the high-tech paraphernalia, only the control panel of the heater, with nothing

attached to it, hangs above the gearstick to comply with the racing rules. These are, after all, family cars.

Nudge the gearstick forward into first, ease off the accelerator... haven't stalled — that's a good start. Off down the pit lane and on to the track, pulling back on the stick to go up the gears. Then began the horrendous vibration through the corners and the soul-destroying pit stop.

Having lost all pride, I started again, screwing courage to whatever sticking points I could find, and threw the car at the empty track, making a hash of it. After a few laps, top revs in sixth gear at last came up and there was some masochistic satisfaction in knowing that this was as fast as I could go — even if it was only in a straight line. Then I was braking for the chicane before the pit lane, a manoeuvre that threw me against the seatbelt harness. I pressed the accelerator and took off again down the start/finish straight.

Abruptly, the "come in" board appeared over the pit wall and it was time to finish. I

had the feeling I had when I was a child and the fairground dodgem ride ended: you can't believe it's over, and you've spent your last 20p.

Apart from accompanying journalists, what does Tim find most frightening about BTCC racing, and why is it such a crowd-puller? He said: "The most frightening part is

knowing that there are 23 other nutters on the track with you, each trying to occupy the piece of road that you want. "What makes it so exciting is that for racing drivers the speeds these cars reach bear no comparison to Formula 1; we can comfortably drive them to the absolute limit all the time."

That's easy for him to say. At least I had the compensation of going one better than Mansell and getting the car back to the pits unscathed, then folding away the racing pyjamas for good. They didn't fit very well, anyway.

● BTCC rounds 11 and 12 take place at Brands Hatch tomorrow. Details: 01474 872331.



Tim Harvey, saloon car champion, tells Vaughan Freeman where he was going wrong: "The front tyres are not getting a chance to warm up and that's why they are juddering. You must go faster"



Bathed in sweat, deafened by engine noise and fighting cockpit discomfort, Freeman corners at speed in the competition-version estate car

Travelling to the heart of true Wales

Tim Jones guides you through an area steeped in pride

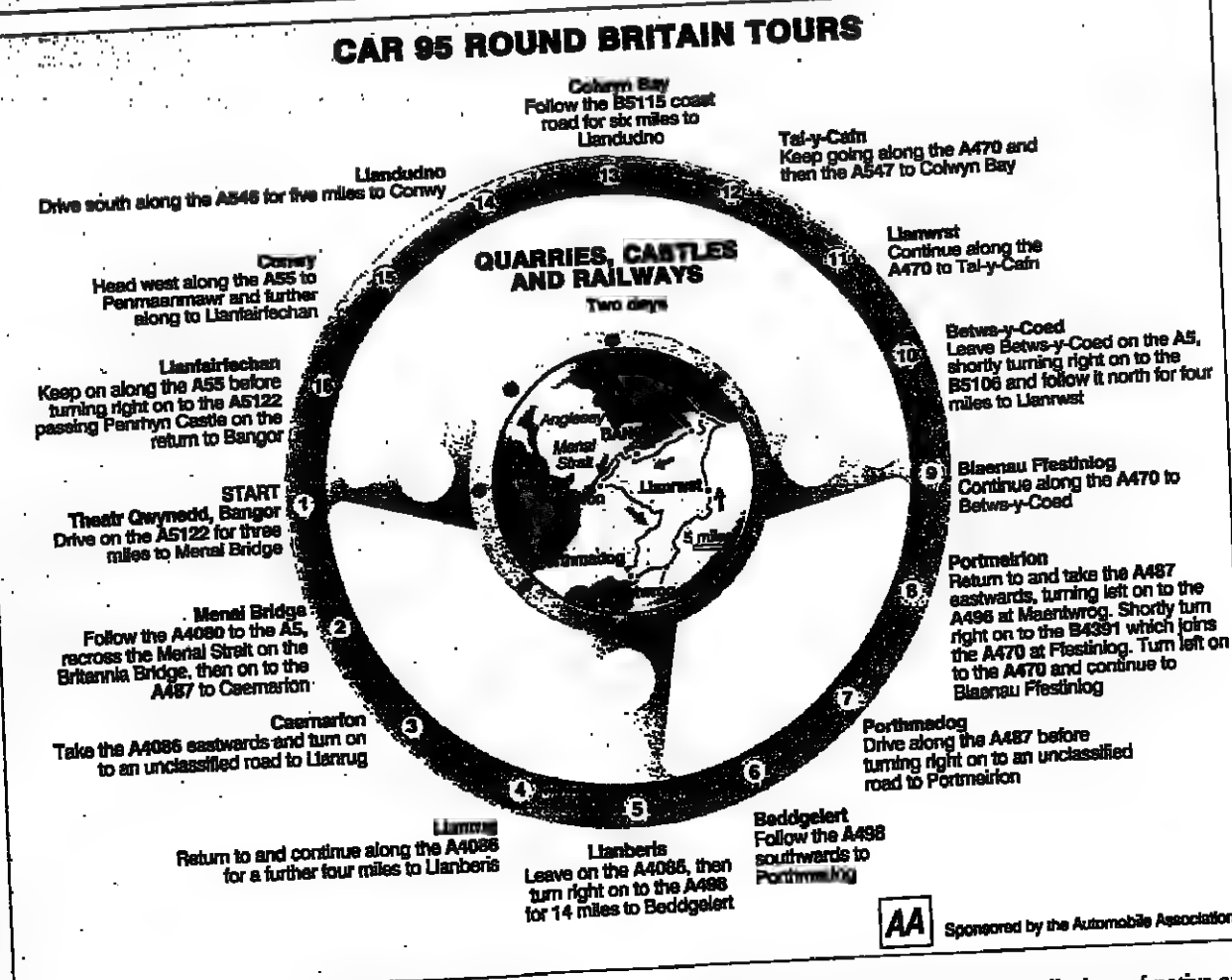
This 113-mile trip takes you into the heart of Welsh-speaking, Bible-belt Wales. There was little in this land, save for slate, to attract Victorian iron or coal entrepreneurs, so it mostly escaped the ravages of the Industrial Revolution. It is still an underpopulated region where buzzards ride the thermals and wild goats look with disdain on the back-packers who try to reach the lofty crags they inhabit. The landscape is dominated by the great massifs of the Snowdonia range — known in Welsh as the Land of the Eagles. Menai Bridge, Gwynedd, where the tour begins, is magnificently situated on the Mersey Strait and joined to the mainland by Telford's elegant suspension bridge. Nine miles away, at Caernarfon, Edward the First's great castle guards the western edge of the mountain fortress, which gave the last princes of Wales refuge in their struggles against becoming England's first colony.

Turning away from the narrow coastal belt, the road leads through Llanrug, where the Bryn Bras gardens are worth a visit, to Llanberis, a town so Welsh as to be unwashed by the tourist tide.

Standing on the edge of clear, slate-blue Llyn Padarn, Llanberis is the starting point for the easiest walk to the summit of Snowdon, a route shared by the rack-and-pinion railway to the top. Walkers are warned that conditions 3,000ft up from the car park can be savage.

At Beddgelert, still deep in the mountain range, Prince Llywelyn is said to have slain a wolfhound he thought had killed his son, only to discover too late that the dog had been fighting off a wolf.

Slowly, the corkscrew road descends to Portmeirion, a town built on the back of the slate trade and starting point for the Ffestiniog Railway. Of all the great little towns of Wales, this must be the finest. Now we are in bedrock



Methodist Wales and to prove it, the pubs are closed on Sundays. Portmeirion, a few miles away, is the fantasy Italianate village created by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis.

Back in the mountains, Blaenau Ffestiniog is unmistakable, scarred forever by the slate industry that tore chunks out of the mountains. In the reopened caverns, old craftsmen now perform slate-cutting for the tourists.

Twelve miles away, Betws-y-Coed is set among forested land where the crash of the Swallow Falls sends up spray to dance in rainbows with the sun. Tourists can see bed-spreads and tweeds being made at Llanrwst's Trefriw Woollen Mills. At Tal-y-Cafn, the 80-acre Bodnant gardens

feature displays of native and exotic trees and flowers. Colwyn Bay and Llandudno are popular resorts — but we are now leaving Welsh Wales. ● Based on AA Tour Guide Britain, £9.99 from AA shops and bookellers.

THE TIMES
Explore Britain's Castles
Offer: book plus a free map



Britain's castles are a reminder of a turbulent age when private armies went into battle as political fortunes changed. They were cold, cramped and drafty buildings to live in; it is little wonder most fell into decline when it became safe to live elsewhere.

The AA gives a brief guide to more than 115 of these spectacular fortresses, both inhabited and deserted, in a new book, *Explore Britain's Castles* — part of the AA's *Explore Britain's* series — which is offered today to readers of *The Times*.

The hardback book costs £9.99 (post and packing free). If you order you will receive, free, a copy of the AA Road Map of Wales (3in to one mile) which sells at £3.50 — handy for finding castles in Wales.

To order *Explore Britain's Castles* call 01634 297123 and pay by credit card, quoting AA Publishing Castles Offer; or send a cheque (made payable to AA Publishing) to: AA Publishing, Freeport BZ 343, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2BR. Please allow 28 days for delivery. Offer ends July 31 1995.

مكتبة النور



Eric Dymock reports on a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle, to be assembled outside Germany

The clout of an off-roader

A made-in-Birmingham Mercedes? Not quite. It is Birmingham, Alabama, not Birmingham, England. Tuscaloosa to be exact, 45 miles southwest of Birmingham.

This new Mercedes is being developed in Stuttgart, and then Tuscaloosa, where Mercedes-Benz is setting up its first car factory outside Germany. There is a research and development team will design a second-generation all-terrain vehicle (AAV) for the American market. The first cars will be sold mostly in America, but their second-biggest market will be Germany and third-biggest Britain, where it will compete with the Land Rover Discovery, the Range Rover, and the Mitsubishi Shogun.

America is the home of the off-road, leisure-sport vehicle. 1.3 million will be sold there this year, with expectations of a rise to 1.7 million by 2005. Mercedes analysts believe that while growth in the 4x4 sector as a whole may level off, the premium range will continue to expand as luxury-car drivers forsake large saloons.

The 4x4 carries just as much executive clout, the view is better and it projects a gratifying lifestyle image. So, instead of the speed and power they scarcely need on crowded roads, buyers can have off-road capability they never use.

The new car will be launched in America in 1997 and come to Britain the following spring. Large, tall, and with five doors, it will be something between a Range Rover-style 4x4 and a multi-purpose vehicle, with a good performance off-road, although perhaps short of the go-anywhere standards of a Land Rover or Mercedes own rather stern G-Wagen. Instead, it will emphasize a smooth ride, and good handling — more like a passenger car. Unusually the Mercedes will have independent suspension to each wheel.

There will be three engine choices, a 2.9-litre 24-valve V-6

turbo-diesel of 150bhp, a V-6 petrol engine of 2.4 litres and 200bhp — one of a new family of Mercedes engines soon to be announced — and a 5.0 litre V-8. The diesel version could be £23,000, and the petrol cars £27,000 and £38,000 at UK Mercedes AAV dealers.

The prices at this stage must be conjecture, and have been revealed by Mercedes only in the hope that some people may hold off from buying next year's Range Rover until their new car comes along.

There is a new corporate culture at Mercedes-Benz. Cars are no longer designed by engineers regardless of cost

and then handed over to the sales people to sell. Now the process is reversed. They are conceived on the basis of what the customers want, and then engineered with the aim of providing Mercedes quality at realistic prices. Engines and transmissions for the W163, as the car is code-named, will come from Germany, and the assembly at Tuscaloosa will be by modules bought in from outside suppliers.

This means, according to Roland Folger, head of marketing at Mercedes-Benz US International Inc, that Mercedes-Benz cars may no longer be so highly priced, even

though its new AAV is still expected to set new standards in the sports vehicle category.

Modular construction is based on the system devised in the 1920s by William Morris. Instead of being produced from raw materials, Morris cars were assembled, from pieces by made outside suppliers in Cowley, near Oxford.

The steel for the doors of the Mercedes AAV will be stamped by an outside supplier, fixed to the body and painted by Mercedes-Benz, then detached and sent away to be completed with window-

glass, trim, electric motors for windows, handles, locks, before being returned for re-hanging on the finished vehicle.

It is a far cry from Morris Motors in the shadow of the Cotswolds to Mercedes-Benz in the foothills of the Appalachians, and a long time since Morris imported Continental engines from America.

Now Mercedes-Benz is bringing engines from Europe to its car factory in the United States, for a vehicle competing head-on with the Range Rover from the stable of its arch-rival BMW.

USED CAR BRIEF



GOOD NEWS: Reliable, practical and unobtrusive, the best thing about the Escort is its range is that there are loads around so shopping for precisely the right car should be no trouble. Considered easy to work on, Ford outlets and many independent garages provide servicing and maintenance at a local price.

SAFETY RATING: The 1990 Escort's safety rating is below average in the Department of Transport safety rankings, but post-1990 examples fare much better, and come at the top of the lower, medium car group. Mercedes-Benz like the

LOOK FOR: Rust around the wheel-arches and the battery tray, and check the camshaft drive belt for wear for 35,000 miles. Look for bright colours such as red as the Escort/Orion is one of those cars that can lose its lustre in a dull green or drab grey.

INSURANCE RATING: Lower than AA Insurance (0000 44777) on a 1990 Ford Escort 1.4LX will cost a 55-year old male, with full no claims bonus living in Winchester, £144.25 fully comprehensive, and £59.95 100% liability living in the same area with full no claims bonus. A 22-year old male with one year's no claim bonus living in South London will pay £425, and a 22-year old female with no claims bonus living in South London will pay £277.

CARS FROM £15,000 - £25,000

MODEL	PRICE	May-95	Jun-95	Chge
Volvo 850 2.0 20V GLT Estate	16850	16850	0.00	
Subaru Legacy 2.0 4 cam Estate	16650	16250	-2.40	
Saab 900i 16V convertible	17750	17850	0.56	
Vauxhall Frontera 2.3 5dr	15150	15150	0.00	
Honda Prelude 2.0 2dr	14550	14550	0.00	
Ford Granada 2.0 Ghia Auto Estate	15295	15295	0.00	
Vauxhall Omega 2.0 GLS Auto 4dr	14995	14995	0.00	
Nissan Patrol GR SLX 4dr	16850	16750	-0.59	
Mercedes-Benz C180 Classic Auto 4dr	17795	17495	-0.57	
Audi 100 2.8E Quattro saloon	17795	17495	-0.57	
BMW 320i 4dr Auto	17795	17495	-0.57	
BMW 525i 4dr Auto	22250	22250	0.00	
Citroen XM 2.0i Turbo Estate Auto	16850	16850	0.00	
Ford Maverick 2.7 GLX T/D 5dr	16395	16095	-1.83	
Ford Legend 4dr Saloon Auto	23750	23750	0.00	
Isuzu Trooper 3.2i 5dr	18095	17495	-0.58	
Land Rover Discovery Diesel 3dr	17390	17295	-0.39	
Mazda Xedos 6 2.0i V6 SE 4dr Auto	17450	16850	-3.33	
Mazda RX-7 turbo	22500	22500	0.00	
Mercedes-Benz E220 Auto 4dr	22250	21950	-1.12	
Mitsubishi Shogun V6 5dr 2972cc	15595	15595	0.00	
Peugeot 605 V6 SVE 4dr Auto	15795	15795	0.00	
Renault Espace 2.0 RT Estate 5dr	16995	16995	0.00	
Renault Safrane 3.0 RXE V6 5dr Auto	18350	17805	-3.57	
Rover Sterling Saloon 4dr Auto	18795	18595	-1.06	
Saab New 900 2.5 V6 SE 5dr	20500	20500	0.00	
Sabb 900 CS 2.5 Eco Power 5dr	15795	15795	0.00	
Subaru Impreza Turbo 2000	18150	18150	0.00	
Toyota New Camry 3.0 V6 GX 4dr Auto	17995	17495	-2.78	
Toyota Landcruiser Diesel Turbo 3dr	16795	16795	0.00	
Vauxhall Omega 2.0i 16v CD Estate	16795	16250	-3.14	
Volkswagen Corrado VR6 3dr Coupe	16350	16250	-0.61	
Volkswagen New Golf 2.8 VR6 5dr	18195	18195	0.00	
Volvo 940 Diesel GLE Turbo 4dr	15895	16150	1.60	
Audi New 80 2.8E Estate 5dr	19550	19350	-1.02	
BMW 520i Touring Estate Auto	15950	15495	-2.85	
Daihatsu Fournak TDX Int 3dr	22500	22250	-1.11	
Mercedes-Benz E280 4dr	19495	19495	0.00	
Land Rover Discovery 3.9 V8i 5dr	22250	21950	-3.17	
Isuzu Trooper D 3.1 Citation 5dr	17695	18250	3.14	
Saab CDE 2.0i Eco Power 4dr	14755	15150	2.40	
Honda New Accord 2.3i SR 4dr Auto	20500	20500	0.00	
Chrysler Jeep Cherokee 4.0 Ltd SE	15235	15195	-0.55	
Chrysler Jeep Cherokee 2.5 sport4dr	20500	19750	-3.66	

Prices quoted to simulate actual dealer list prices. HB = hatchback, S = saloon. Price changes based on 1-reg low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP National Motor Research.

A NEW service to help motorists get a fair deal from their insurance companies after their cars have been written off in accidents or stolen and never recovered — and to find reliable replacements — is launched tomorrow.

The Vehicle Valuation Bureau is promising to help motorists from the moment the accident or theft occurs until they are back on the road. The bureau provides an information booklet to advise drivers on what steps to take after their misfortune, offers a hire car at discounted rates and will give an independent valuation of the lost or damaged vehicle.

If that valuation differs from the figure being offered by insurers, the bureau will supply a help pack on how to negotiate with the insurance company. It is also launching a vehicle-replacement programme with a number of car dealerships and guarantees that the history and quality of the new purchase will have been checked thoroughly.

The free service will be funded by the garages which have joined the scheme and available from tomorrow on 0125 864000.

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Titan Auto Ltr, £21,995
94M Audi A6 2.0E Saloon
Emerald, £17,495
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94M 90 2.0 E Emerald	£14,995	94L 90 2.0 Est indigo	£13,995
93L 90 2.0 E Tien EPI	£11,995	93K 90 2.0 E Regatta air	£10,995
91H 90 2.0V Quattro	£11,495	94M Audi A6 2.0E Saloon	£18,995
94M Audi A6 2.0E Saloon	£18,995	94M Audi A6 2.0E Saloon	£21,995
94M Audi A6 2.0E Saloon	£21,995	94M Audi A6 2.0E Saloon	£17,495
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94M 90 2.0 E Emerald
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94L 90 2.0 Est indigo
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CAR 95

An estate that's a joy to park

Alan Copps loads up to test-drive the roomy Citroën ZX Aura.

Packing people, especially children, and things into cars has become an art. The school run, that chore dreaded by so many parents, has been elevated to a "lifestyle experience" by manufacturers trying to sell multi-purpose vehicles, luxury four-wheel-drives and super estates.

But what if you want to carry your children and your luggage around and park in the gear for your weekend activities, but can't afford an expensive lifestyle accessory? You may prefer anyway to drive something that feels like an ordinary car and can be parked just as easily.

For some time, the lower-middle estate represented an overlooked sector of the market in Britain, yet against a steep decline in sales to private car buyers last year it expanded from 34,000 in 1993 to nearly 43,000 and is fast becoming one of the most competitive areas.

It is also a sector in which economical diesel engines are becoming very popular. So the estate versions of the Citroën ZX, already the company's biggest-selling model ever in Britain, have to fight their corner.

That they do so successfully is largely due to some old-fashioned Citroën virtues. The words "comfort" and "practicality" would be high on the list of qualities most people associate with the marque. The suspension may no longer be the hydraulic sort that made the old DS rise on its haunches so amusingly, but it still tucks out the bumps in the same way, and the rear compartment seems to have been designed not just for the

luggage but also for ease of loading.

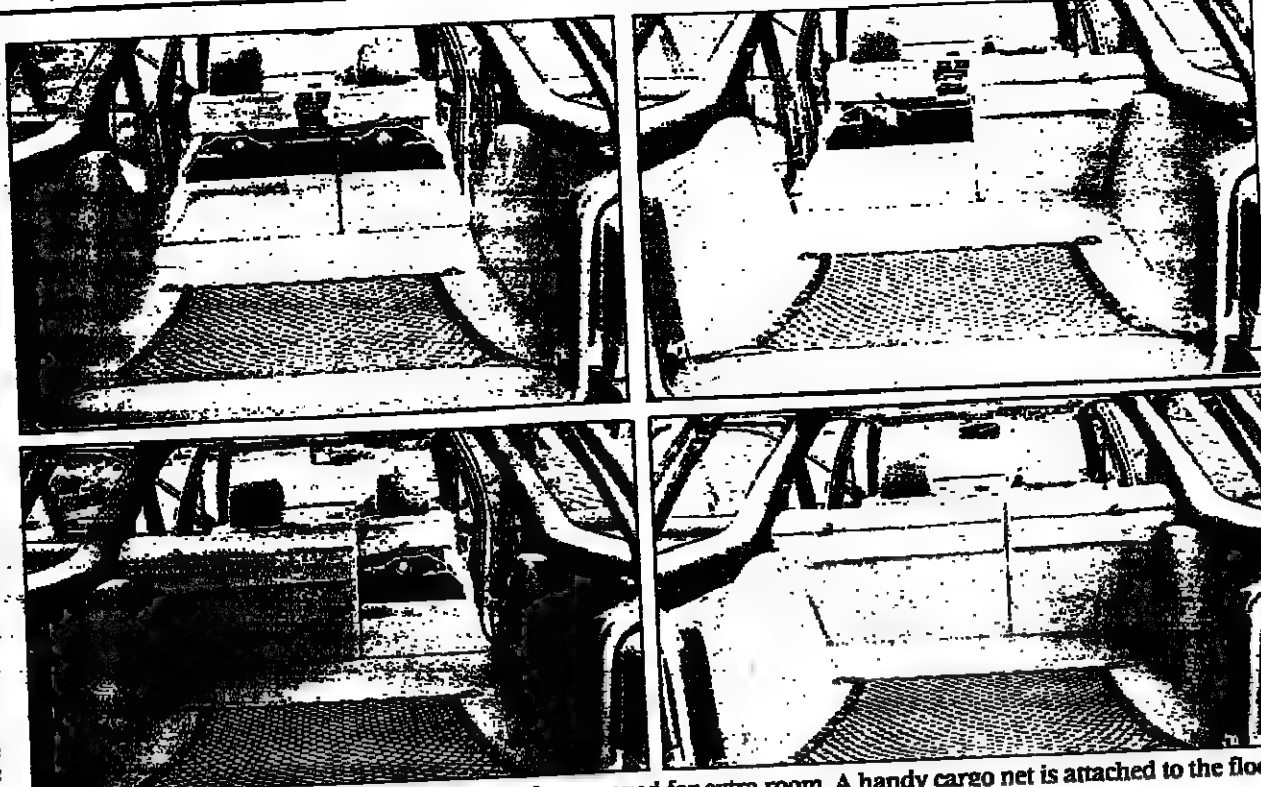
On a short test run, it is difficult to judge a car built for so many different situations so CAR 95 has chosen a ZX Aura, the top of the estate range, for an extended test. Two things stand out from the first 1,500 miles: the performance of the 1.9-litre turbo diesel engine and its economy.

Soon after its introduction, the engine was described by Autocar as "the best small diesel in the world". Since then, a number of new challenges have appeared, but to the driver previously used to a petrol car and expecting a certain sluggishness in a diesel, its performance is still an eye-opener. The manufacturer's claimed 0 to 60 mph acceleration figure of 10.9 seconds is faster than many petrol-engined rivals, as is the top speed of 111mph, but it is in the middle range of acceleration that it really shows its best, the turbo boost coming in at just the right point to deal with those frustrating overtaking situations. The same effect gives it great flexibility in third gear around town.

The real joy of the car in road, however, is that despite the extra load space, it is only 20cm (about 8in) longer than the hatchback. So parking, especially with the help of the power-assisted steering that comes as standard on the Aura, is really no more difficult than it would be in a saloon. The only complaint is a slightly stiff gearchange, especially from third down to second and back into first after stopping in traffic.

The diesel claim an impressive figure of 64.2mpg at a constant 56mph. That is a theoretical standard, of course, but it seems reasonable in the light of figures in the high fifties on runs of more than 100 miles so far. The 39mpg urban-cycle figure also seems realistic.

The Aura has electric front windows and sun roof and remote locking as standard, and lumbar support and height adjustment on the driver's seat, making the ideal driving position easy to hold. But this is an estate, so what about load-carrying? If you want to carry a high chair, a pushchair, a sun lounger, two suitcases, a briefcase, a bag of nappies and baby food, a tent,



The Aura's load space. The rear seat base can be removed for extra room. A handy cargo net is attached to the floor.



The ZX estate, part of Citroën's biggest-selling range in Britain.

three sleeping bags, a bag of toys, a picnic box and several bags of shopping and still have room inside for two adults and three children, one in a baby seat, this car will do it. For use, with the rear seats up there is one of those practical little touches which makes life a lot easier, a cargo net neatly fastened to the floor which will stop all those loose toys or awkward bits of shopping rattling around the boot.

For security, there is a cover for the boot space.

But in an early attempt to increase the load capacity an extraordinary thing happened. In the course of fastening a universal bicycle-carrier to the rear hatch, a section of

the top flange of the door, about the size of a matchbox, simply snapped off under tension from the clip of the webbing strap which holds the carrier in place. The carrier has been used successfully many times since with the clips fastened in a different position on the same flange, so it may have just been a peculiar weakness in one section of the plastic door.

Citroën's people said they had never heard of such a thing happening before and pointed out that their own bicycle carriers are of the roof-fixing variety. However, before the next instalment of this test we will give them a chance to inspect the damage.

CITROËN ZX AURA ESTATE

Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

OTHERS

Ford Escort Ghia TD Estate: £14,505; 90bhp; 0-60mph 11.2 seconds; payload 455kg, volume 1425 litres; urban cycle 38.2mpg. Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDX Estate: £14,715; 82bhp; 0-60mph 13.9 seconds; payload 457kg, volume 1630 litres; urban cycle 42.2mpg. VW Golf GL TD: £14,755; 90bhp; 0-60mph 13.4 seconds; payload n/a, volume 1425 litres; urban cycle 47.1mpg.

Great days at Goodwood
Racing legends do battle again

One of the most spectacular displays of historic race cars in Britain for many years, from vintage Grand Prix machines to sports racers of all ages, is being gathered for the Goodwood Festival of Speed, which takes place on the weekend of June 24 and 25. The centrepiece of the event will be the re-creation of the great racing battles, such as the 1993 Italian Grand Prix, the 1960s Le Mans contests between Ford, Ferrari and Porsche and the German Grand Prix of 1939. Among vehicles and drivers taking part will be Stirling Moss and Denis Jenkinson reunited in the Mercedes-Benz 300SLR in which they won the 1955 Mille Miglia. John Surtees at the wheel of a 1930s Mercedes-Benz W154, no fewer than four Aston Martin DBRs and a spectacular array of Porsches, including two of the rare 908/3 sports racers from the 1960s.

There will also be an astonishing 15 Ford GT40 of the kind that won Le Mans every year from 1966 to 1969. They will take part in a parade of historic Fords which includes a Lotus Europa once driven by Jim Clark and the Escort RS1600 in which Hannu Mikkola has just won the London to Mexico anniversary rally.

The third such meeting on the West Sussex track, this promises to be the most elaborate yet and is expected to place the event firmly as a highlight of the growing British Classic Car season. Other features include the Cartier Style at Lux competition for coachbuilt cars, the Mulberry Challenge Trophy for sports racers from the 1930s to the present day, a historic hill climb, a superb collection of 1950s motorcycles and flying displays by the Red Arrows and two Spitfires.

● Ticket information: 01243 787766

Win a VIP weekend at Goodwood



Today, The Times, with Ford, is offering a VIP weekend for two with tickets to the Goodwood Festival of Speed on June 24 and 25.

This celebration of motorsport history in Sussex will feature supercars, world championship motorcycles and one of the largest-ever gatherings of Ford GT40 models.

The weekend begins for the winner, and his or her companion, with delivery the day before of a top-of-the-range Scorpio, to drive to Goodwood.

There will be dinner on the Saturday at Ford's baroque where other guests will include top rally drivers. After overnight accommodation in a nearby hotel, there is a picnic barbeque lunch with champagne provided by Moët & Chandon. The Scorpio car will be collected again from the winner's home.

TO ENTER: Answer the following question: What does the "40" stand for in Ford GT40? and phone 0891 71229 to give your answer. First correct entry drawn will be the winner. Closing date: Thursday, June 15 1995. Calls charged at 39p per minute, plus 49p at other times. Entrants must be aged 21 and over. Usual Times competition rules apply. Full details on request.

LEFT HAND DRIVE

CITROËN Conquest 2.0 Turbo Diesel 1700cc, 110bhp, 11.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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LS 400 3.0 24V, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

LEXUS COUPE

2 door version of LS400, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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LS 400 3.0 24V, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

MURLEY IN WARWICKSHIRE

LS 400 3.0 24V, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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LS 400 3.0 24V, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

MAZDA

MX-6 2.0i 16V, 150bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

NISSAN

2000X 2.0i 16V, 150bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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PERFORMANCE CARS

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93 L LAND ROVER DISCOVERY

3.0 TD, 1700cc, 110bhp, 11.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

LEXUS AUTHORIZED

LEXUS OCTAGON

1994 LS400 3.0 24V, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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LEXUS COUPE

2 door version of LS400, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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MAZDA

MX-6 2.0i 16V, 150bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

NISSAN

2000X 2.0i 16V, 150bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

NISSAN WANTED

2000X 2.0i 16V, 150bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

PERFORMANCE CARS

2000X 2.0i 16V, 150bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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handicap white, alloy wheels, 1500cc, 110bhp, 11.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

LEXUS AUTHORIZED

LEXUS OCTAGON

1994 LS400 3.0 24V, 200bhp, 10.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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(a) MG5 Conv. White, 94,000 miles, FSH, 11.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking, electric windows and sunroof, power-assisted steering. Engine: 4-cylinder, 1905cc turbo diesel, developing 92bhp at 4,000rpm and 148lb/ft torque at 2,250rpm. Transmission: five-speed manual gearbox. Performance: Max speed 111mph; 0-60 mph 11.9 seconds (What Car? test). Economy: Constant 56mpg, 64.2mpg; urban cycle, 39.2mpg (Government figures). Load: Payload 515kg, volume with rear seats down 1580 litres (55.8cu ft). Insurance group: 9.

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(c) MG5 Conv. White, 94,000 miles, FSH, 11.9 seconds, 111mph, 39.2mpg, 1580 litres, 55.8cu ft. Price: £13,815 (on the road) includes central locking,

Kevin Eason reports on the different tests of the round-the-country competition

First round a success for all

Eighteen drivers were put through their paces in the first of six rounds of The Times-Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition. The standards were high and David Gaskell only won by a nose.

An industrial engineer with Pirelli Cables, he scored 164.5 points out of a possible 200, compared with the average for the day of 130. Second was Julian Head, a Pirelli colleague, who was awarded 162 points by examiners from Drive Tech training school, while Stephen Lark, from Future Electronics, gave chase with 159 points.

Both men now stand a chance of reaching the final in August at Silverstone. It was no easy passage. Apart from a written test, Drive Tech showed them a series of slides of road scenes from which contestants had to identify potential dangers.

"I found that very difficult indeed," Mr Gaskell said. "The driving was hard enough but the slides had me foxed a couple of times." He had to switch from the BMW 318i he

Examiners are surprised at the many skills and high standards shown by the caring company-car drivers

normally drives for work to the 2-litre Nissan Primera SLX chosen as the test car. That meant a quick adjustment from the BMW's rear-wheel to the Nissan's front-wheel power and quick acceleration for the road course, plus manoeuvring against the clock.

Not easy — and just to make it tougher, the cars were fitted with a bowl on the bonnet in which there was a ball. One inadvertent slip of the clutch, one jar too heavy on the brakes and the ball was bouncing down the course, causing lost time and points. Chris Howell,

**THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company
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1995**

Drive Tech's founder, said: "We were pleasantly surprised by the standard of driving. Company car drivers suffer from this reputation as the

people who carve you up on the road and have all the accidents but a competition like this proves that there are some terrific company car drivers who are courteous and safe."

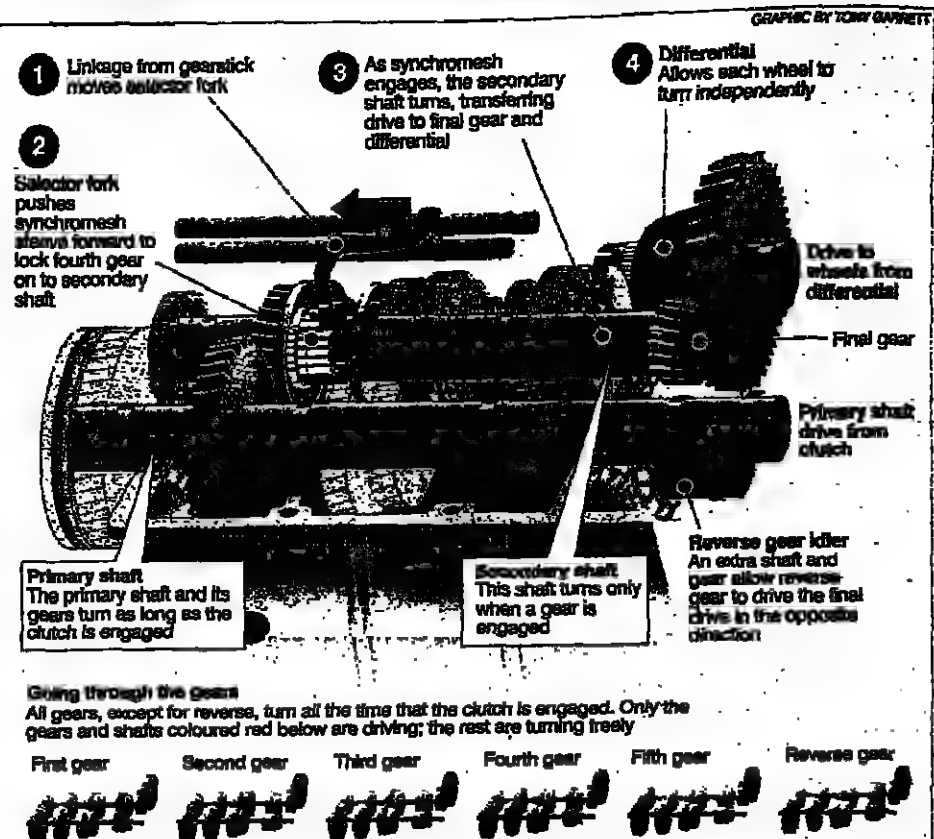
Just how important being safe and courteous is was underlined by the team from Unipart International, based at Cowley in Oxford. Peter Howells, Alan Kilham and Mark Simlett, who all work in Unipart's sales department, were encouraged to enter by their company.

"When we are on the road,

we are ambassadors for Unipart, which has 1,300 company cars," said Mr Kilham. "If we have an accident caused by our carelessness and tell people we are from Unipart, it reflects badly not only on us but on our company too."

Mr Howells added: "Our company has recognised that the best workers are properly trained in every skill that they need — and that has to include good driving. If you are a poor driver, then you cost the business money through higher insurance premiums, accident damage and bad fuel consumption because your technique is wrong."

"Something like this is an investment for Unipart as well as for the three of us," The Times and Lease Plan agree, which is why we are sponsoring the search for the best company car driver in Britain. Next week, the contest moves to Nottingham and a new batch of almost two dozen drivers, who even now, are rushing up their Highway Code and checking on the smoothness of their gear change for the test ahead.



The gearbox is essential to match the power output from a car's engine to the needs of the motorist. Vaughan Freeman writes. Gears are sets of toothed wheels on shafts, that mesh. As one turns, it turns the other gear and thus the other shaft.

The manual gearbox consists of two main shafts, the input (primary) shaft delivering power from the engine via the clutch, and the output (secondary) shaft, which delivers power to the wheels. Each shaft is lined with the toothed cogs that, once the correct gear has been selected, pass power to the car's drive wheels.

The primary shaft turns all the time that the clutch is engaged. The secondary shaft turns only when a gear has been selected and engaged. However, to avoid crunching gears, synchronism is used. This allows the gears on both shafts to be permanently meshed together, but on the secondary shaft the cogs spin freely until they are engaged.

When the driver changes gear, the gearstick moves a selector fork which locks the

Gearbox: delivering power to the wheels

correct gear, spinning freely on the secondary shaft, in place with a toothed sliding collar, or sleeve.

To start from a standstill a car needs high torque (turning power) at low speed. Otherwise, to avoid stalling the engine, the clutch would need to be slipped until about 15mph was reached. Hills would also slow the car and cause a stall unless the driver constantly slipped the clutch. Even then below a certain speed the engine would stall.

The engines of most modern cars operate effectively within the range of 1,000 to 5,000 rpm, a range which produces

low torque, or turning effort. Use of the gearbox increases this turning effort of the engine. Gears work in the same way as levers. A long lever, moved a few feet at one end, allows a heavy load to be moved a few inches at the lever's other end. A larger gear being driven by a smaller gear rotates more slowly but with greater force. In first gear, the smallest cog or gear on the primary shaft is matched to the largest one on the output shaft. This delivers a high torque at low speed.

In top gear, typically a fifth gear on a modern car, the cog on the primary shaft from the engine is the same size as the cog on the output shaft, so that the wheels are driven at high speed but with weak torque.

Power from the drive shaft is delivered through the big final drive gear, linked to the differential, a secondary set of gears that allows the drive wheels to rotate at different speeds when the car corners.

For reverse, the drive power is routed through a third shaft that turns the power output the opposite way.



Drivers being put through their competition paces. The bowl on the bonnet of the cars holds a ball which only smooth driving will keep in place

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844 Carrera 4 Cabriolet, 1995, 1.8L, 16v, 180hp, 0-100 in 7.5s, 150,000 miles, £11,995. 844 Carrera 4 Cabriolet, 1995, 1.8L, 16v, 180hp, 0-100 in 7.5s, 150,000 miles, £11,995. 844 Carrera 4 Cabriolet, 1995, 1.8L, 16v, 180hp, 0-100 in 7.5s, 150,000 miles, £11,995.

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MAZDA

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844 Road Range, 1995, 2.0L, 16v, 150hp, 0-100 in 8.5s, 150,000 miles, £11,995. 844 Road Range, 1995, 2.0L, 16v, 150hp, 0-100 in 8.5s, 150,000 miles, £11,995. 844 Road Range, 1995, 2.0L, 16v, 150hp, 0-100 in 8.5s, 150,000 miles, £11,995.

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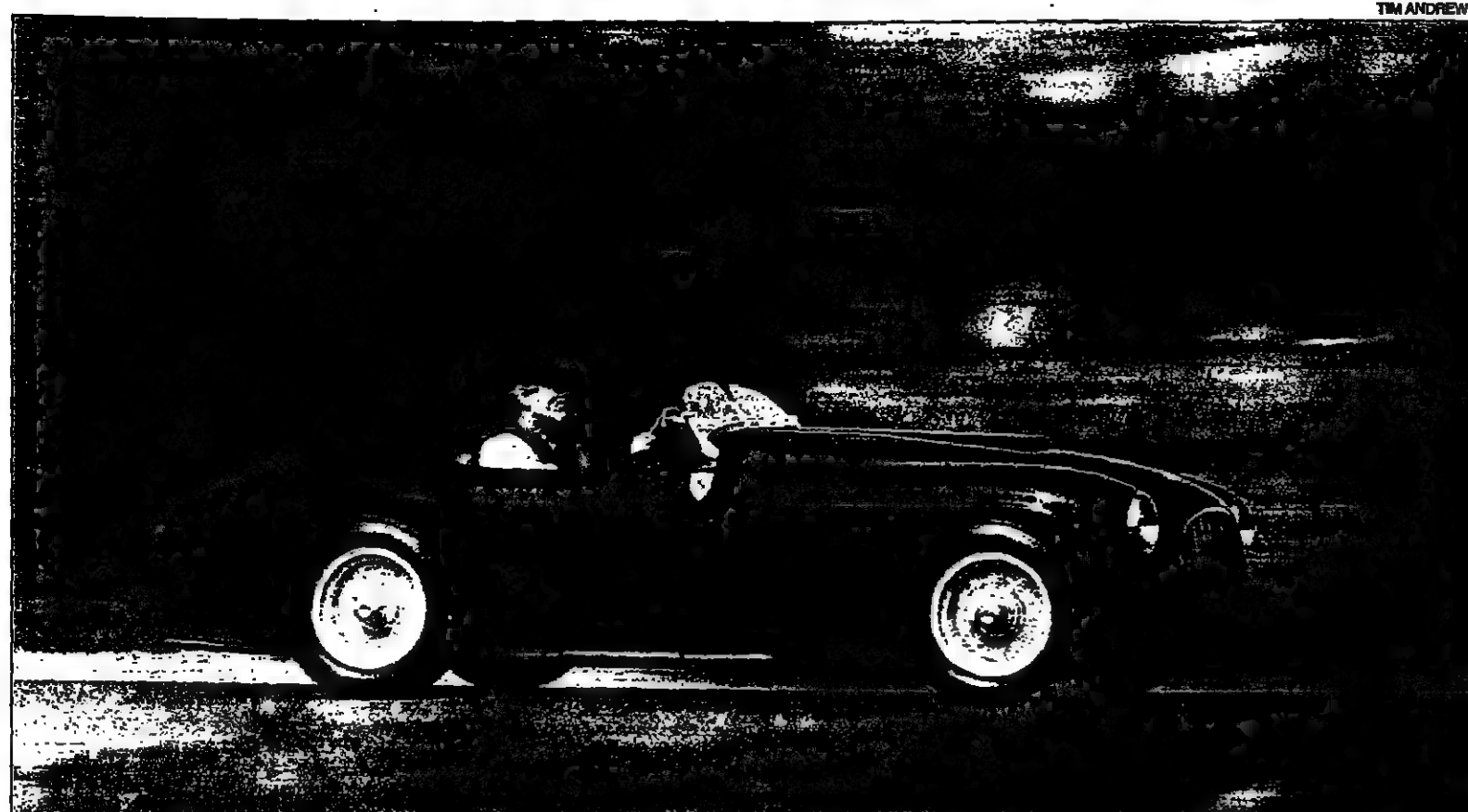
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Searbelts... in a Ferrari Barchetta? Roger Bell quells modern inhibitions as the car's roaring V12 engine takes him back in time

Doing that old Ferrari jitterbug

Clunking into gear, Roger Bell savours motoring at its most classic and wild in a rare 212 Barchetta

I had been warned about the hair-trigger throttle and vocal engine. Waaaang. The revs zing, the exhaust bellows. Ear muffs? Not likely. I try to adjust the seat, but it's fixed. Belts? No belts. Switches? Nothing to speak of. Pedals? My size tens are too big for the narrow footwell so I borrow some trainers. Fuel gauge? You shine a torch into the tank's throat. Speed? Best above 60mph to avert steering shake. Enough questions. I dip the heavy clutch, clunk into first — top left, as in a modern five-speeder — and wave goodbye to the trusting owner. He hears the receding screech of straight-cut gears and twin-pipe snarl long after I'm out of sight in his 212 Barchetta, one of the oldest Ferraris around. Historians are divided about the Ferrari marque's age. Sixty years ago, a twin-engine racing car built for Alfa Romeo by Ferrari clocked over 200mph to snatch a speed record from the Nazi-backed Auto Union company. It was Enzo Nuvolari's only success in the fearsome *bimotore*, said to be the first car to carry Enzo Ferrari's nameplates. But there are no diamond jubilee celebrations planned to this tyre-shredding monster. Its lineage is questionable. Its genes mutated. The same goes

for the Ferrari-built, flat-engined Vennura 815 of 1940. The first purebred Ferrari was the 125 made immediately after the war. Details of its audacious V12 engine were revealed in 1946, and the handful of 125 sportsracers made the next year mark the undisputed start of Ferrari production. What were these precursors of the Ferrari legend really like? Martin McGlone's lovely 212 would provide some answers. Rapping down the A2, crouched behind the wood-rimmed steering wheel in a cockpit notable for its simplicity, there is no need for goggles, although my cap loosens around the legal speed limit, an easy canter in this 120mph car. The engine is so tractable there is little need to use the non-synchronous gearbox. All the same, I shift

indulgently, practising double de-clutching learnt on a Bedford lorry. National Service training was not wasted. Performance is terrific. As with most subsequent Ferraris, the 212's mystique is rooted in what Enzo Ferrari called "the song of a V12". Savour the intoxicatingly rich sound effects and it's hard to dispute that emotion had as much to do with the choice of 12 cylinders as piston area. Early development focused on the V12 engine: 125a became 159a (the figures denote the cubic capacity of each cylinder), then 160a and, by the beginning of the Fifties, 212s. What started as a 72bhp 1.5-litre V12 quickly evolved into a 180bhp 2.6. Even bigger, more powerful derivatives were to follow. Several carrozzerie, including Farina, Ghia, Bertone and

Zagato, clothed these early race-bred Ferraris. The prettiest and most popular, though, was Touring's Barchetta (little boat), a name recently resurrected by Fiat. Ferrari's owners, for the Punto-based sports car, Martin McGlone's 212 became a Barchetta — the inspiration for the AC Ace — after its original Abbot-made body had been scrapped as unworthy. Enzo Ferrari himself rebodied several early cars, so there's a precedent for the *alter ego* drag. Once in rural Kent, the Barchetta betrays its age with a stiff and jerky ride. It's also physically demanding. Apart from the heavy clutch and tricky gears, the all-drum brakes lack servo assistance, never mind the bite of modern discs.

Parking is hard work and U-turns are best avoided. Worse still is the innate steering judder — cured since my drive, it seems, by fitting a modern steering damper. In the early Fifties, the term "roadholding" still had less to do with tyre adhesion than maintaining contact with terra firma. Though the 212 has independent front suspension, it jitters on bumpy corners and its skinny tyres relinquish grip easily. Ironically, there lies the Barchetta's great appeal. Its limitations demand skills rendered unnecessary by modern technology. To drive it well is to be richly rewarded. Singing ears, shimmering feet and aching muscles are evocative reminders of a memorable drive. So it's true: the Ferrari magic is ingrained. It was there from the birth of a fabulous engine. Enzo Ferrari was no engineer. A competent racing driver perhaps, certainly a lecherous autocrat and manipulator. His great achievement was to get puppets — among them Gioacchino Colombo, father of the first V12 — to indulge a ruthless quest for speed and racing success. It shows in almost every car that bears the name of the man once revered in Italy almost as much as the Pope.

Prancing horse from across the Atlantic

Helen Mound compares a muscle car with a VW coupé

Volkswagen's Corrado VR6, probably Europe's best coupé, costs £21,199; the new Ford Mustang GT, America's bestselling coupé, complete with massive 5-litre V8 engine, air-conditioning, electric seat adjustments and a superb stereo, costs \$19,160 (about £12,500). Motorists on the other side of the Atlantic certainly seem to get a better deal.

The American driver spent an average of \$20,000 on a new car last year. In Britain, the figure is a little less, but Americans get all possible comforts as standard, and powerful engines for much less money. We get excited if our car has a 2-litre engine. In America, if your car has anything less than a 3.8-litre V6, you may worry what the neighbours will think.

In the Fifties and Sixties, America's gleaming finned and chromed creations out-sized and out-lavished anything Europe could produce.

However, though American consumers are content with a motoring world consisting of size, straight-line performance, and piles of luxury equipment, on this side of the Atlantic we demand a little more. In Europe we expect high levels of automotive refinement and quality, which explains why marques such as

BMW are so coveted in the United States.

So though the Ford Mustang GT is a superb performer — its acceleration is breathtaking and the engine's roar stirs the blood — it suffers from a cheap-looking interior of poor quality plastic and cloth. The ashtray is a nasty bit of tin in the centre console and the glovebox looks flimsy.

Then there's that engine, a cast-iron beast. It sounds glorious, but it's something of a dinosaur in the engineering world. The Corrado's compact 2.9-litre engine is capable of similar performance (top speed 140mph, 0-60mph 6.7 seconds) and can still manage 22mpg as against the Mustang's 18mpg.

But the Mustang is built to suit its environment. It is at home on America's endlessly long straight roads, where speed limits are strict (between 55 and 65mph) and fuel is cheap (about \$1.20 — 75p per US gallon). British drivers need cars that can cruise at higher speeds (maximum,

70mph), drink less of our costly fuel and cope with more twisting roads.

Which is something that makes the Mustang feel out of place on British roads; like most American cars, it does not corner as well as European cars. Its soft suspension makes the car wallow. On both sides of the Atlantic, however, most motorists don't rate comfort and economy above performance. American cars don't make the grade in the economy stakes — but they make up for it in comfort.

The Mustang's super-efficient air-conditioning system chills the cabin in less than five seconds, and there are thoughtful touches such as the dedicated portable phone socket. The controls on the key fob are a stroke of genius: you get a button to open the boot, a panic button to lock the car and, for urban security, a button that needs one touch to unlock the driver's door and two to unlock the passenger's.

The fact that the Mustang's engine is rather antiquated, that the interior is not high-quality and that it lacks the handling of a European coupé probably would not bother many Britons; especially if it sold here for only £12,000. Dream on.



The 5-litre V8 Ford Mustang GT: anything but European, yet with neat touches

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Marcel Berlins on the new Sarah Dunant

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PLUS: Libby Purves sails into crisis, page 15

SHOPPING



Gear up for the start of the coarse fishing season

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PLUS: Pick of the picnicware, page 13

GARDENING



Colour and scent all year round in the glasshouse

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COMPETITION



Win a week's holiday hideaway for life

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 10 1995

TO LORD'S WITH LOVE - AND A HAMPER



By Tunku Varadarajan

At no other ground is the light so tautly drawn; nowhere else is there green of such deep and clenched perfection; and in no other place where cricket is played is the air as flecked with fear and fable. That is why I love Lord's.

I loved Lord's early, before I learnt to love most other things. As a small boy at boarding school in the Rajasthan desert in northwest India, with transistor pressed to small left ear, I heard John Arlott speak — and Brian Johnston, too — of the sloping ground, and of old Father Time with his scythe and wicket. I moved to England in 1979, and in the

years since — spent first as sloppy London schoolboy, then at university down the M40, and lastly as settled Anglophile "incomer" — I have missed the Lord's Test match only once, in 1991. Yet even then, on holiday in Guyana, I kept in touch with St John's Wood by sharing shortwave radio and rum with men who loved Lord's and its game almost as much as I do. "Lord's is where even the baddest cricket look full and sweet," said a man called Bacchus in a bar in Charity, on the Essequibo coast. He may never have been to Lord's, his grammar may have been toasted on some eccentric flame, but there was a truth in the tidy Guyanese compliment, to

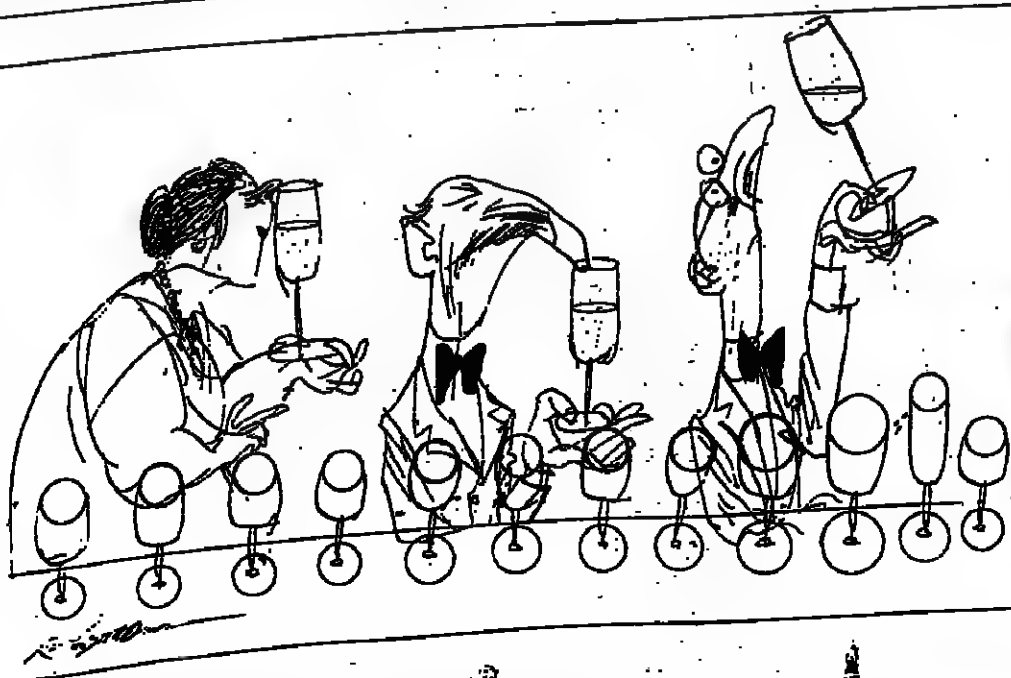
which I clinked my glass of the best Five Star. Now, as Michael Atherton's men make white-flannelled war against Richie Richardson's West Indians at Headingley, I prepare myself once more for a pilgrimage to Lord's, where the summer's next and most important Test match will soon be played.

"The Tavern is noisy and vernacular," wrote Cardus in his *English Cricket*, in 1945, "with London spread outside." The Pavilion may no longer be "a chapter out of Galsworthy", but the place boasts still a

cavalcade of English character. Preparing to watch cricket at a venue such as this is a taxing examination of the senses and, as with all examinations, the student is advised to ready himself beforehand. Some of us need no such counsel: guided by instincts which kindle themselves awake at the merest hint of a Test match, the mind surrenders to the sweetest tension. As a boy, I spent many nights before a match — sometimes five or six — in a sleepless and fragile accounting of possibilities. Would Ajit Wadekar win the toss? Would Gavaskar survive Andy Roberts's opening spell? Please, please, let Chandrasekhar be fit to baffle the English-

men with his googlies and top-spinners and leg-breaks. If only Bedi could get Tony Greig early with his arm ball. Let it not rain; whatever happens, let it not rain. Older now, I still cannot sleep or wake or work as gently as I would like in the days before a Test match. A vivid series of images, shots, wickets and shouts takes over every idle moment, as if from the Rev Cotton's Cricket song: *Here's guarding and catching, and throwing and tossing. And bowling and striking, and running and crossing* ... Test cricket's pace and style may have altered, and

Continued on page 3, col 1



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مكتبة النور

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

FILMS

Geoff Brown

ED WOOD (15): Tim Burton's wonderful film depicts the crazy life of the film director Edward D. Wood Jr (Johnny Depp). Buifs will love the re-creation of Wood's Z-grade follies of the 1950s. Non-buifs may be mystified at first, but the hero's optimism in the face of his own lack of talent, and his devotion to the washed-up horror actor Bela Lugosi, give the film a strong emotional charge. Martin Landau's impersonation of Lugosi is alone worth the ticket price. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); Lumiere (0171-836 0601); MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527); Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914098); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332).

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION (15): Hats off to a film that entertains, looks elegant, never mangles its distinguished source (the play by John Guare), and gives film audiences that rare commodity: something to think about. As on Broadway and the Royal Court stage, Stockard Channing shines in the role of Ouisa, the smart New Yorker who bears the brunt of the upheaval caused by a smooth-talking impostor claiming to be Sidney Pollack's son. The director, Fred Schepisi, skillfully orchestrates the cut and thrust of comedy, pathos and philosophical debate; and if the impostor (Wil Smith) loses some mystery as the play is opened out, there is compensation in the camera's whirlwind tour of New York's high and low life. With Donald Sutherland. Barbican (0171-638 8891); Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); MGMs Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); Haymarket (0171-839 1527); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332).

• More films, page 6.



Channing and Sutherland in *Six Degrees of Separation*

JAZZ

Clive Davis

CHARLES MCPHERSON: When Clint Eastwood was looking for a musician to perform the incidental music in *Bird*, his film homage to Charlie Parker, his choice fell upon the alto saxophonist Charles McPherson. In contrast to some Parker disciples McPherson always pays attention to tone quality, even at maximum velocity. A Missourian who came out of the gritty southwestern tradition, he enjoyed a long association with another seminal figure, Charles Mingus, and more recently has been one of the soloists in Wynton Marsalis's repertory concerts at the Lincoln Center in New York. The Bear Hotel, Bearwood Road, Birmingham (0121-429 1184), Mon 12; Town Hall, Imperial Sq, Cheltenham (01242 523690), Tues 13.

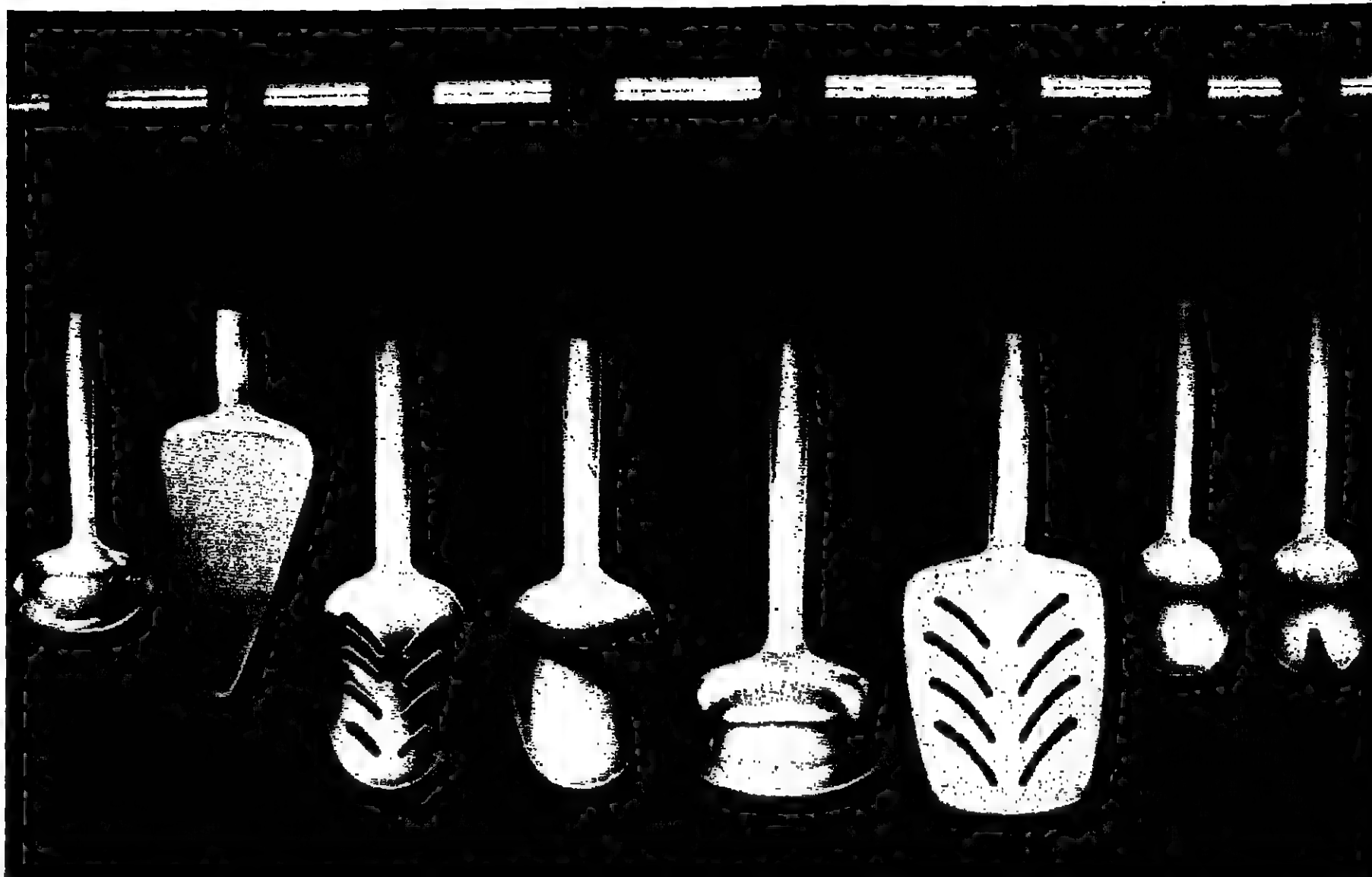
LENNY WHITE: The drummer with Chick Corea's gee-whiz cross-over band Return To Forever back in the 1970s, Lenny White has continued to straddle jazz and contemporary chart trends, though he is still capable of playing blistering, straight-ahead bop. He will be giving a drum clinic during the day, then jamming with a band that features the powerful tenorman Jean Toussaint, and the high-octane pianist Julian Joseph. Blue Note, Hoxton Sq, London N1 (0171-729 8440), Tues 13, 8pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL: Lots of 20th-century music today with a Nicholas Maw 60th birthday concert this morning (Jubilee Hall, 11am) and a programme of Knussen, Lindberg and Britten's *Spring Symphony* from the BBC Symphony Orchestra tonight (Snape Maltings, 8pm). Tomorrow afternoon the London Sinfonietta plays more Lindberg and Knussen, including Adès, Nancarrow and Stravinsky; Felicity Lott is in recital tomorrow evening. Highlights of the week ahead include a splendid Purcell and Britten recital on Tuesday, featuring Philip Langridge and David Thomas; and a superb programme (Sat 17, Snape Maltings, 7.30pm) of music that might have influenced Britten when he was writing *Peter Grimes*. Aldeburgh Festival (01728 453543), until June 25.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Kurt Masur, who conducted the Leipzig



Le Buffet kitchen utensils in pressed stainless steel, with moulded-on plastic handles; on display at the Robert Welch retrospective in Cheltenham — see Museums (below left)

Gewandhaus decently enough for 20 years, has virtually been reborn late in his career as the music director of the New York Philharmonic. He is a superb orchestral trainer and, in the meaty Austro-German masterpieces at least, a powerful, if old-fashioned, interpreter. For its Festival Hall visit the NYPO plays to his strengths with Beethoven's *Eroica Symphony* and Strauss's *Metamorphosen*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Fri 16, 7.30pm.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

THE GREAT COURT: One of the biggest problems facing the British Museum at the end of the millennium is how to preserve and make the best use of a classic building as requirements change, sometimes radically. The British Museum's millennium project is to transform the central court, into the middle of which the old domed Reading Room was dropped in 1857, leaving visitors to the building unaware of the space originally around it. Sir Norman Foster has devised a scheme for opening it up, enclosing the Reading Room with an elliptical building as a Centre for Education, and covering the whole with a translucent roof. These ideas are vividly brought to life in this exhibition with models, drawings and computer-animation. The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until July 30.

ROBERT WELCH: Anyone who has ever played the tourist in Chipping Campden will probably have visited Robert Welch's silversmithing workshop/showroom there. But apart from the artist/craftsman aspect of his work, many know his industrial designs, particularly the Kitchen Devil range of kitchen knives, without being aware who is responsible for them. This retrospective includes more than 200 objects, as well as models, drawings and photographs, and gives a very clear idea why Welch is one of Britain's leading designers. Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Clarence Street, Cheltenham (01242 237431), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, until August 5.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

IMMENDORFF AND RODGER: A dramatically contrasted double bill at the Barbican Art Gallery, where the downstairs space is galvanised by fantastical paintings by Jörg Immendorff. Two years ago, he became fascinated by Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress*, and set about creating his own version of the story, casting himself as the Rake in a series of make-up and costume sketches. This bi-sexual apparition prances through canvases crammed with other, equally bizarre figures. Just as Hogarth recommended, they all appear to be acting on stage, and the best canvases convey a hallucinatory power. Upstairs, George Rodger's

long career as a leading photojournalist is far more sober. Refusing to indulge in flashy camera angles and technical tricks, this modest but stubborn man witnessed the Second World War on many fronts.



1948 South Africa: a study of tribal life by George Rodger

His photographs of Belsen concentration camp are very distressing. After the war Rodger moved to Africa. Here his strong and graceful studies of tribal life can be ranked among his finest work. Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 4141), until August 28.

LANDSCAPES OF FRANCE: Refusing to serve up an over-familiar helping of Impressionism, selector John House shows Monet and his friends in a bracing new light. This enjoyable Hayward

Gallery survey starts with Impressionism's rivals — the Salon painters who basked in official admiration and state patronage. But there are connections between the two camps. Intriguing new names can be discovered among the Salon pictures, but the best art was created by the men and women who banded together in defiance of government-approved conventions. Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-928 3144), until August 28.

DANCE

John Percival

TURNING WORLD: This is the final week of London's stimulating festival of dance from abroad. Sasha Waltz from Berlin shows the problems posed by breakfast and morning ablutions for four people sharing a house (Lilian Baylis, tonight). At The Place, Lefine and Robana from Amsterdam investigate what human movement can do in *The Circle Effect* tonight, followed on Tuesday and Wednesday by the Atlas Company from Geneva, whose *Moving A Paraphrase* seeks ecstasy in the rain. Finally, also at The Place, Leigh Warren and Dancers arrive from Adelaide to dance *Lure and Bait*, created by Warren who is remembered as a soloist with the Rambert and Netherlands dance companies. Lilian Baylis Theatre at Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), 7.45pm; The Place Theatre, Dukes Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), 8pm.

NOLJECT: Saburo Teshigahara, a sculptor turned choreographer, brings his company, Kamas, back to London in the latest of his provocatively individual shows. The title, *Nolject*, comes from combining the words "noise" and "object" — which apparently is exactly what happens on stage, with a crashing soundtrack and huge levers which the dancers manipulate to startling effect. In the middle of the performance, Teshigahara promises to dance on a mass of broken lightbulbs. We shouldn't be bored. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Fri 16, Sat 17, 7.45pm.

THEATRE

David Sinclair

FLADH 1995: London's annual celebration of Celtic (and related) music gets bigger each year, but are there enough acts to go round? Prompting a sense of déjà vu at this year's event will be the Saw Doctors, Kinky MacColl, Shane MacGowan, the Frames, the Dublins, Dervish, Van Morrison, Capersville, Christie, Hennessy and Big Genanims. Others, such as Big Country, John Martyn, Brian Kennedy and non-Celtic headliners the Beautiful South have all toured extensively in recent months. But lending a fresh sense of occasion will be ALT (Tim Finn, Liam O'Maoláin and Andy White), the Irish pop sensation Boyzone and Sinéad O'Connor, who will be singing songs from last year's *Universal Mother* album.

Finbury Park, London N4 (0171-344 0044), today, noon-11pm.

MIKE AND THE MECHANICS: The easy-listening rock combo, founded by Mike Rutherford as a diversion from his work with Genesis, has taken on a life of its own. With a fourth hit album, *Beggar On A Beach Of Gold*, now under their collective belt, Mike and the Mechanics — Rutherford, Paul Carrack, Paul Young and Peter Van Hooke — continue to negotiate a safe passage through the placid waters of the middle-aged, rock 'n' roll mainstream. Guildhall, Portsmouth (01705 824355), June 14; Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0115 948 2626), June 15; Bournemouth International Centre (01202 297297), June 18; Apollo, Oxford (01865 244544), June 20; Wolverhampton Civic Hall (01902 312030), June 21; Colston Hall, Bristol (0117 922 3686), July 11; Plymouth Pavilions (01752 259222), July 12; Dome, Brighton (01273 709709), July 13; Island, Ilford (0181-514-7400), July 17; Colosseum, Watford (01923 445000), July 18; Sands Centre, Carlisle (01228 25222), July 24; Assembly Rooms, Derby (01332 255800), July 25.

Benedict Nightingale

RICHARD II: What next, Donald Sinden as Ophelia? As it happens, the problems with Fiona Shaw's Richard have less to do with her gender, where you will find it easy to suspend belief, than with her interpretation of an admittedly weak king as an insecure, thumb-sucking fool. Nevertheless, here is a bold, riveting performance. Deborah Warner's production is strong, fluent and unmissable. Cottesloe, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 2252), Evenings today, Mon 12th/Wed 14th.



Fiona Shaw gives a riveting performance as Richard II

7.15pm; matinees today, Wed 14, 2pm. Continues in repertoire.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Steven Pimlott's ambitious production is mainly notable for the excellent actor playing the sexually repressed ruler, Angelo. Alex Jennings finds a dizzying anti-gravity inside his own grave, prim exterior, and becomes a man appalled by his destructiveness. Shakespeare's play runs in parallel with another 17th-century warning of the dangers of excessive self-discipline, John Ford's *Broken Heart* at the Pit. Barbican, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Evenings: Wed 14, Thur 15, 7.15 pm; matinee: Thur 15, 2pm. Continues in repertoire.

• More theatre, page 6.

Rodney Milnes

BILLY BUDD: Last two chances to catch Francesca Zambello's unsparing production of Britten's equally unsparing dissection of certain patterns in English social behaviour: how apt that E.M. Forster should have been co-librettist of an opera that shows the tragedy of people never connecting, mainly because it requires too much effort. Zambello's clean staging is an ideal frame for a solid ensemble performance, led by John Tomlinson's adamant Claggart and Graham Clark's properly tormented Vere. Peter Coleman-Wright, the English National Opera's wholesome Budd, takes over in the title role. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 13, Thur 15, 7.30pm.

STIFFELLO: The Royal Opera's Verdi Festival, set to dominate Bow Street for the next six weeks, is officially launched on Monday with a revival of Elijah Moshinsky's staging of what was once a "problem" piece — at least in Italy, where the idea of a married priest publicly forgiving his wife's adultery was, to say the very least, alien. Now we see it as one of the composer's most powerful and personal philosophical statements, full of profoundly stirring music. Catherine Malfitano returns to the role of the tormented wife, with José Cura as her husband and Anthony Michaels-Moore as her father. Sir Edward Downes conducts. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Mon 12, Fri 16, 7.30pm.

Moving experience for a small piece of England

Ruth Gledhill bids farewell to a chapel about to be reborn in the USA



IF some do not have the faith to move mountains, they at least have enough to move churches. Take some Americans, who are buying Sproton Methodist Church in Leicestershire, dismantling it stone by stone and relocating it to a corner of their foreign field. We were at the farewell wake in Sproton, where this petite and charming church has nestled between country cottages for 130 years, and where it was spotted by officials from an American university who descended "tornado-like" on Britain seeking a suitable chapel to whisk back to their campus in Kansas. Our service sheets, as yellow as corn and depicting a setting sun, billed the church as "preserved by power divine", which indeed it has been, because the building, closed for worship five years ago after the congregation dwindled to six, faced an uncertain future. Minister Joe Goodridge welcomed his congregation of 200, asking us "to give thanks for the wonderful service this place has rendered over many generations". His wife, Devanessie, read from Psalm 84: "How amiable are thy tabernacles O Lord of Hosts, my soul longeth, yea even fainteth, for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God." Listening intently at the front sat Hilda Sentence, 92, the cha-



Standing at a spiritual crossroads: David Pittman, of Baker University, and the Rev Joe Goodridge

pel's organist for 55 years and one-time Sunday school teacher. "It is sad that it has got to go out of the country because it has so many precious memories," she said. Using the analogy of Israel's Temple, itself destroyed and rebuilt, Mr Goodridge preached on holiness. "Within the Temple there was the holy place, and beyond it the inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies, where we are told no one went except the high priest, the high priest, and he only once a year," he said. "The Temple was not built for organised worship but as the dwelling place for God. So Isaiah in the Temple has a vision of God in all his power and glory and as creator of all that exists."

The land in Sproton was given to the Methodist church by the local Coy family in thanks for the childhood conversion of one of their number, and the foundation stone was laid on June 29, 1864. "I have no doubt that in those days the builders were very conscious that they were standing on holy ground just like Moses in the wilderness before the bush that was aflame with the presence of God," said Mr Goodridge, presenting to Janet Funke, a surviving member of the Coy family, the original trowel used to lay the foundation stone. In a ritual to symbolise the passing of the

property across the Atlantic, Mrs Funke then presented the trowel to Mr Pittman, the treasurer of Baker University in Kansas. Afterwards, Mr Pittman explained: "We are a Methodist university founded in 1858, and we want this chapel because we do not have one. We looked at a number of chapels, but this one was built about the same time our university was founded and its architecture will complement the university's. It would be cheaper to build a replica but this has a special significance. We are an institution that is trying to preserve our Methodist heritage and tradition and this is one of the ways of doing that." The scheme, the idea of university president

★ A one to five star guide to the service

- SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER: The Rev Joe Goodridge.
- ARCHITECTURE: Tiny Victorian Gothic gem in local ironstone with high-standing oak wood pulpit. ★★
- SERMON: Meditation on holiness, tabernacles and the Temple. ★★
- LITURGY AND MUSIC: Hymns sung vigorously, with lines such as "fix in us thy humble dwelling" and "Dear name — the rock on which I build", accompanied by electric organ imported specially for the occasion. ★★
- SPIRITUAL HIGH: Ready to die and be taken down, but soon to rise again. ★★
- AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Last supper of bread, cake and tea. Truly a feast. ★★

Dan Lambert, is costing almost one million dollars, he said. Builders will begin to dismantle the church this summer. It will travel in six containers on six ships this winter, to be reassembled and ready for rededication next May, giving America a piece of spiritual England for its own backyard in Kansas.

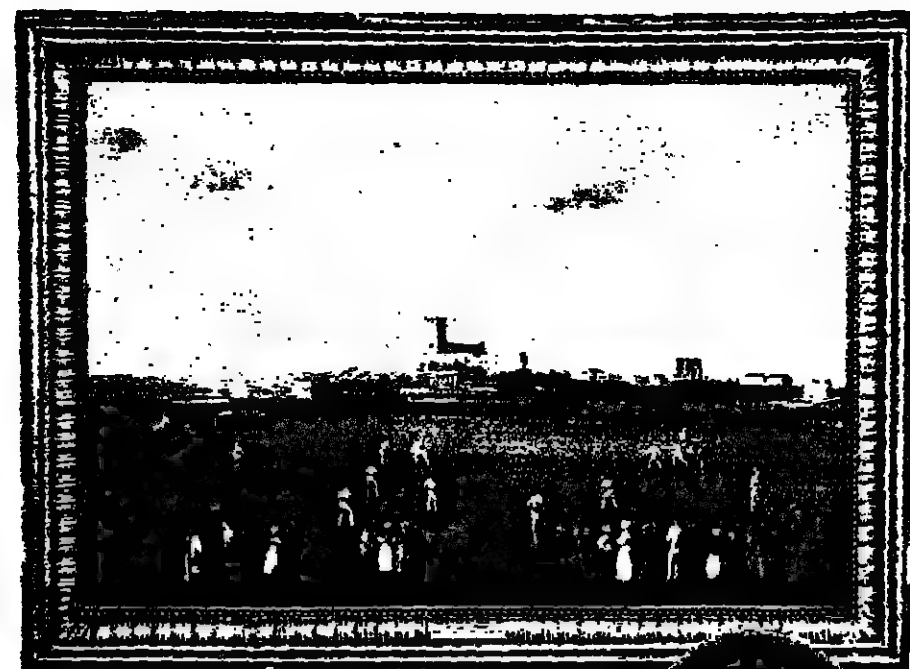
The story of the Sproton chapel's move to America is to be featured in a Channel 4 series on unusual religious architecture, to be broadcast this autumn.

Sproton Methodist Church, currently at Sproton, Leicestershire, soon to be at Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas. Tel: 01476 75893 or 011 913-994-6451.

مکان الهم

COVER STORY

3



Left: this group portrait, *The Conversation Piece*, painted by Andrew Festing in 1993, hangs in the Writing Room and features 14 of the finest postwar English cricketers. From left to right: Godfrey Evans, Trevor Bailey, Bill Edrich, Peter May, Ken Barrington, Brian Statham, Denis Compton, Alec Bedser, Len Hutton, Colin Cowdrey, Freddie Trueman, Jim Laker, Ted Dexter and Tom Graveney. Above: *Cricket Match at Christchurch, Hampshire*, by Thomas Musgrave Joy. Right: one of the two cannon balls from Sevastopol, mounted on wood above the Writing Room fireplace.



Stephen Green, the curator at Lord's, in the famous Long Room

MCC members only are allowed in the hallowed Long Room, but the Grand Tour of Lord's does enable outsiders, men and women, to visit briefly. Just telephone and book and, for a small fee (adults £4.95, children £3.50), the doors to the most exclusive room at the world will open.

Visitors are often met by Stephen Green, the curator at Lord's. With his crumpled suit and careful erudition he might easily be an Oxford don of the older kind. There is no better man with whom to see the Long Room.

Visitors are at once drawn to the portrait, by Archibald Stuart-Wortley, of W.G. Grace. When it was commissioned by MCC in 1890, Grace was asked what kind of painting he wanted. He said, "a large one", and that is what he got.

Such vanity was understandable in the player who, in Ranji's words, "united in his mighty self all the good points of all the good players". Thomas Lord, on the

other hand, shows in his portrait a degree of humility. The founder of Lord's Cricket Ground, painted by an unknown artist, hangs in the Writing Room end of the Long Room, more than the length of a pinch away from Grace's bluster.

The Earl of Winchelsea hangs nearby, in dandy contrast to Lord in plain black coat. The "unknown founder of Lord's", young Winchelsea's portrait is by Nathaniel Dance. It was acquired in 1889, at Christie's, for £19,000. "Christie's didn't catalogue it terribly well," said Mr Green, "with a trace of glee, and they failed to mention his connection with cricket." The painting would have fetched a lot more had they done so.

The finest paintings in the Long Room are two small depictions of matches between Eton and Harrow. The first, from 1886, by Albert

Chevallier Taylor, could be a Manet. It captures the essence of the occasion by focusing on the handsome crowd of the cricket, only a lone boy fiddler is in sight, his hands placed languidly on well-bred hips. The second, by Albert Ludovici Jr (on loan from Patrick McAfee) has the same French Impressionist flavour.

Mr Green prefers *A Game of Cricket* (c. 1790, by an unknown artist). "It would look rather nice in my drawing room," he says.

OTHER famous faces hang from the white walls, obeying no apparent scheme: the elderly Bradman, by R. Harnaford; Jardine, by Herbert Oliver, the purest steel in his clear "Bodyline" eyes; and Alfred Mynn, George Parr and John Wisden, sturdy stalwarts of a precious age, painted by William

Bromley. But the most compelling "document", *Conversation Piece*, by Andrew Festing, commissioned in 1993, hangs in the Writing Room, which also boasts two cannon balls from Sevastopol, mounted on wood above the fireplace. (They were given to the MCC in 1923 by a W. Higgins, but the curator stresses that such curios are not something which the club would accept today.)

The group portrait features 14 of the finest postwar English cricketers. The ones now dead are painted in pale white, like friendly and energetic ghosts, and form the backdrop to the conversation between living players in blazers: Peter May was painted before he died. Bill Edrich, Ken Barrington, Len Hutton and Jim Laker are all depicted as we remember them: hitting sweetly to leg, looking

fiercely combative, striding out to bat and fighting a venomous off-break, respectively. Godfrey Evans is jocund, Trevor Bailey pensive; Freddie Trueman looks as if he is making an unpopular point at unpopular length; Ted Dexter is aloof but attentive; Alec Bedser is erect, as if ready to bowl; Denis Compton is an elder statesman; Tom Graveney and Colin Cowdrey appear grave. Only Brian Statham is difficult to recognise, partly because of his status as the least-photographed great cricketer ever to play for England.

"Brian Statham was the only one John Major failed to recognise when he was last here," Mr Green says. And to think that this Lancastrian took 252 wickets for England in 70 Tests — more than Bedser, Laker, Barnes and Lock, and fewer only than Underwood, Trueman, Willis and Botham.

TUNKU VARADARAJAN
For tours of Lord's, call the Guestier Tour of Lord's office on 0171-366 3825.

Continued from page 1
the cricketers are now mostly younger than I am, but the game is still dependent more than any other on the character and idealism of its players.

"Character and idealism" such strange and awkward words today, but those who watch cricket know them well, and understand their import.

Those who watch cricket are aware of other truths: in accounting for a day at a Test match one must account also for all the other senses.

Sitting on a hard seat beyond the boundary allows me not just to watch and marvel at balletic play, to record scores

and statistics, and to commit pure strokes to memory, but to eat delicious food and drink chilled wine and beer, to smoke strong cigarettes — and share stronger observations with people who begin the day as strangers but who linger with you at stumps "in the western sunshine, reluctant to return to the world" (as Cardus puts it after the last flash of flannel has departed).

Ever since I acquired control of such things, I have made sure that I take with me to a Test match those provisions which are essential for a day given over totally to pleasure. As a small boy at

my first Test match — at Delhi in December 1972, when England, under Tony Lewis, beat India by six wickets — my grandmother packed for me a small boy's lunch: bread spread thickly with jam, packets of potato crisps, bananas and several bottles of sticky Gold Spot. My brother and I were also given a few rupees to buy warm peanuts in their shells from the hawkers who roamed from stand to stand, shouting loudly and getting in people's way.

Jam sandwiches gave way gradually to better and more stylish food. With each passing Test, I began to associate my evolution from novice spectator to older hand with the food and drink which I brought to the ground. Yet it was not until my first Test at Lord's that I grasped the full richness of possibility that can rest in a lunch basket.

On this occasion, a man and his wife sat next to me, drinking cold champagne and eating neatly sculpted sandwiches of salmon, tongue and parma ham as India were bowled out for 96 by Botham, Lever and Hendrick. I nibbled on a lunch (I will not reveal what it was) that was, by comparison, as paltry as India's batting had been. Only my hero, Gavaskar, made a score — of 42, I think, before he was caught behind, off Gooch of all people.

My dejection must have been apparent to my neighbours, because they offered me some of their lunch. It was not my first glass of champagne, but it was my first tongue sandwich. I have eaten many more since then, my Brahmin



As a boy at school in the Rajasthan desert, with transistor pressed to small left ear, I heard John Arlott speak... of old Father Time with his scythe and wicket?

palate having acquired an unlikely taste for beef. Basking in the new-found beauty of Lord's that day I learnt a simple truth: however compelling the play, a poorly assembled lunch can ruin a day at the Test match. Now, I take to Lord's only those

things which are fit to be eaten and drunk at a ground of such sovereignty.

What best accompanies the cricket at a Lord's Test match? Just as one would not dream of drinking Coke with crab or Liebfraumilch with sweetbreads, one must ensure that while the eyes and mind feast on a Lara or an Ambrose, the mouth receives only that which is in some sort of harmony with the game.

I believe that heavy food is not appropriate: however delicious it is in the eating, food that lulls one to sleep should not be taken to a Test match. Small parcels of food are best, easy to pack and convenient to share with neighbours.

There is as much pleasure in turning to the man next to you and offering him a slice of your Spanish omelette on bread, or whatever else you have brought, as there is in the exchange of Jesuitical observations. And, over the years, I have received a cornucopia of goodies in return: Jamaican patties, Trinidadian roti, biltong, crab pie, samosa, shrimp sandwiches, quail's eggs, even Chilean empanadas from an Australian who married a girl from Valparaiso, divorced her, but still retained his love for her food.

This year, I will take small pitta bread parcels, some smeared inside with black olive paste and stuffed with mortadella, others filled with pecorino romano and serrano ham. I will drink, I think, some chilled sauvignon — Cloudy Bay, perhaps, or Poggio alle Gazeze. If I can find any in London. And for tea-time, I might take a box of Indian sweets from Drummond Street, to be eaten with

strong black coffee and rum from a hip flask. Part of this feast I will share with agreeable neighbours. A Lord's Test makes one generous.

There can be no generosity, however, towards those who will, with their transistor radios and mobile phones, drown the hollow sound of warty bat on ball; or those who would, by the waving of their flags and banners, introduce at Lord's a tribal taste to which the place is just not suited.

Cricket is played in a variety of places, to a flock of styles and values, yet at Lord's it

must be played and watched as it has always been done.

Of course I love Lord's because of its light, its green and its air. But I love it most of all for the quietness of its passion and the soft culture of its observation. In this, we must resist all wanton change.

John Arlott wrote the following words on cricket at Worcester, and I imagine sometimes — perhaps too fondly in the present day — their echo at Lord's:

Like rattle of dry seeds in pods
The warm crowd faintly clapped;

The boys who came to watch their gods,
The tired old men who napped,
The members sat in their strong deck-chairs,
And sometimes glanced at the play,
They smoked and talked of stocks and shares,
And the bar stayed open all day.

These are old-fashioned thoughts, of course, but Lord's is an old-fashioned place.

Cover photograph of Tunku Varadarajan at Lord's by MARK HARRISON

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Surely not the last word in bad taste

That ever-vigilant guardian of public morality, the Independent Television Commission, has delivered a rebuke to Channel 4 for allowing its splendidly subtle "yoof" programme, *The Word*, to televise such essential items as a man pulling a woman along by a tow-roped attached to his wedding tuxedo. And, of course, the now classic "vomiting Santa Claus" episode. I myself happened to watch the latter item — and very seasonal it was, too.

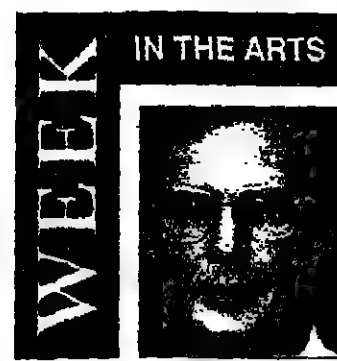
The ITC says that such *jeux d'esprit* are "over the edge of acceptable standards of taste" — even at 11.30pm on a Friday night, apparently, when anybody prudish enough to object is surely tucked up in bed with *The Essential Herbaceous Border*. Indeed, it now appears that nobody did object; the ITC's members (the classic Hampstead chattering-class mix of academics, shrinks, earls and company chairmen) simply took it upon themselves to generate outrage. Michael Grade,

Channel 4's chief executive, retorts that the ITC is "out of touch" with *The Word*'s target audience. For once, I fear that the loud man in red braces is right — and it pains me to write that, because some of Channel 4's gimmicks this year have been truly execrable. Whose "acceptable standards" are we talking about? Have the ITC's members never been in the junior combination room of a Cambridge college at midnight on a Saturday night? Has none of them ever undergone that trial by lager — a Club 18-30 holiday?

Laddish behaviour is surely "all part of growing up". Wise fifty-somethings (the average age of ITC members is 53) will recall the japes of their own youth, and accept that not all television should be aimed at folk in carriages. And of all people, Sir George

Russell, the ITC's chairman, should recognise this. For as chairman of Camelot, the National Lottery operator, he also presides over an organisation that has done more to debase public broadcasting standards than *The Word* could ever achieve. You think I am exaggerating? Then you have not been watching the BBC's grotesquely tacky live broadcasts of the lottery draw.

But do we have a trend here? Even the beginnings of a moral backlash? By one of those strange coincidences, the ITC's ruling about *The Word* came just a week after Senator Bob Dole made his now famous attack on the moral standards of the American film and music industries. You will recall his vibrant rhetoric. Senator Bob, who aspires



RICHARD MORRISON

to become the next President of the United States, has apparently decided that nasty films and rap songs are the root cause of America's problems. These "highmares of depravity" are leading to "the

mainstreaming of deviancy". And the executives of Time Warner (the record company involved with some of rap music's tastier villainies) are given a special scolding: "Is this what you intend to accomplish with your careers? You have sold your souls, but must you debate our nation and threaten our children as well?"

Gosh. He left out the bit about raping the rain forests, eating newborn infants and scribbling in library books, but we get the drift. America is drowning in filth. Satan, thy name is Hollywood! The hearts and minds of a great nation are being corrupted by perversions on screen and CD. Oh, and by the way, vote for me in November 1996.

As it happened, I was on holiday in the White Mountains of Crete when Senator Bob made his

speech. I read his words, and then looked around me. Here was an island that nurtured a fabulous ancient civilisation — and saw it destroyed utterly. An island that was fought over for millennia by Greeks, Romans, Turks and Venetians — and was then ravaged again in one of the most brutal battles of the Second World War.

And yet here was a farmer leading a mule to market. Here were old men playing dominoes. Here was a little girl bowing a dance tune on a three-stringed folk fiddle. These are vignettes that have endured through 8,000 years of Cretan turmoil, and will endure 8,000 more. Thomas Hardy's line came to mind: "War's annual will cloud into night ere their story die". Call me complacent, call me an

old sofie. But in these surroundings Senator Bob's worries did strike me as being somewhat deficient in historical perspective. Has he so little faith in the enduring decency of the American people? When the essential civilising qualities of truth and integrity, beauty and courtesy, have withstood so many wars, atrocities and pestilences, does he really believe that a few violent films or puerile songs can deprave a whole nation? Senator Bob should relax. With such stupendously bland tosh as *Forrest Gump* breaking all box-office records, Hollywood is more likely to bore America into a coma than incite an orgy of depravity. As for our own ITC and its pompous posturing over *The Word*, well, as this newspaper once famously declared about another classic generation gap: who breaks a butterfly on a wheel? Let the kids be juvenile while they can. They will be chained to the sombre treadmill of mortgages and negative equity soon enough.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

RONALD FRASER-MUNRO

Profession: He is a multi-media artist

Age: 32

What does a "multimedia artist" do? Almost anything, but in Fraser-Munro's case it usually takes the form of public performance, often incorporating video, CD-ROM, poetry, dance and music, mostly conceived and written by him but also in collaboration.

Seen recently? At the Institute of Contemporary Arts last Christmas he developed a cult following with *Soap*, a narrative over four days, in which he and his accomplice kidnapped the Queen. Each episode began with a video reprisal of the story so far. Last week Fraser-Munro finished a ten-day stint in the ICA's *Let's Get It On* season, appearing on six evenings in the bar to harangue customers as variously, Cesare Cappuccino, "the world's hippest cardinal", Sir Arthur Stuffed-Shirt and his Revolving Monocle and Curt Vile, "ex-Nazi and fashion propagandist", among others. The added visual poignancy to these caricatures is that Fraser-Munro is black.

Next? At the Royal Court Theatre on Monday and Tuesday night as one of the winners of the Barclays New Stages. His company, Le Shovelle Diplomatique, which is chiefly himself, presents two pieces: *La Chaine Longue Dangereuse*, which "uses video and live performance to unchain the emotions of two neighbours" called Jacques Du Quack and Monique de Pression; and *Bruder cest Grind*, which has nothing to do with the Brothers Grimm, but is a poetic and musical "assault on life and death at the end of the 20th century". Both are seriously funny.

What do people say about him? Catherine Ugwu, who devised *Let's Get It On*, said he was "the most original talent audiences respond with either adulation or complete disgust". The ICA's live-art director, Lois Keidan, called him "totally unexpected, incredibly profile, a kind of human installation". Angus Fairbrairn, director of *Stormy Waters*, the two-day event taking over Glasgow's Clydebank next month, said he was "a one-off, a multiple split personality, a black cross between Vivian Stanshall and Ivor Cutler".

What has he to do with *Stormy Waters*? He is the comper.

Doesn't sound very surreal. The show starts with the comper's voice and a 10m high screen bursting into life with a view of the inside of his mouth via an endoscopic camera. So then, presumably, on to the Edinburgh Fringe. "Not for me. I don't believe in hooting and roaring. I'm not one of those Oxbridge types that believes all humanity is absurd."

Not part of the glittering stream from the Cambridge Footlights, then. Born in Nantwich, Cheshire; father a carpenter; brought up in Crewe and joined the RAF to get away from the place. Spent five years in Cheshire as a clerk. "I learnt how to grow a handlebar moustache and call people Ginger." Bought himself out of the RAF and set up a company called Committed Theatre, which toured listening pub venues, got a job at the Barbican bookshop but was made redundant in 1992. Has hardly been out of work since.

Ambition? "To find time to finish one of the six plays I've got on the computer."

SIMON TAIT

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Vile mikes mar Weill's score

OPERA: At the Coliseum Rodney Milnes laments an 'incomprehensible' English National Opera staging of Weill's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*

It is impossible to write sensibly about the musical side of this new production of Weill's opera. That is because of a sinister development threatening the very raison d'être of opera — a development compared to which the invention of surtitles is but a bagatelle. ENO has for some time been discreetly experimenting with the amplification of voices; on Thursday, discretion was thrown to the winds, and amplification was as blatant as it was ill-managed.

It appeared to be completely random. Some voices were miked some of the time, others not, the why and wherefore remaining a complete mystery. The first deleterious effect of amplification is to muffle the singers' diction, and the second is to throw balance between pit and stage into complete disarray.

The responsibility for how a great composer's score should sound is taken out of the conductor's hands and put into those of a sound engineer uncredited in the programme. How could Stan Edwards, ENO's music director, have allowed this?

It is hard, given the possibility of overspill into the mikes from the pit, to judge the actual performance of the orchestra itself on the evidence of what was heard. Weill needs crisper, brighter

overall sound, and certainly more incisive rhythm than Edwards supplied.

It is equally hard to assess the voices. Sally Burgess we know about unthinkingly, and she was well-cast as Widow Bebbick, catching her music's poisonous lyricism as well as its forcefulness. Lesley Garrett sang sweetly enough as Jenny. As far as one could tell, Robert Brubaker, the American tenor making his house debut as Jimmy Mahoney, displayed an easy, unforced lyric voice well up to the considerable demands of the role (he ducked the top C in his aria, perfectly permissible). I suspect the American bass Brian Matthews (Trinity Moses), also on debut, is better than he was allowed to sound.

For different reasons it is equally hard to write about Declan Donnellan's production. What was he trying to achieve? What was this care-free musical-comedy staging in cool, elegant designs by Nicholas Ormerod supposed to have to do with Weill's angry elegy for a dying civilisation? Donnellan is probably right to jettison the whole Weimar ethos of the work, but something other than the values of TV light entertainment needs to be put in its place.

I know that culinary characterisation would be

quite out of place in Brecht's epic scenario, but the cast-list contains several well-established archetypes, and they were not made flesh. All depended on the capabilities of the singers themselves. Again, Burgess stood out with the forcefulness of her personality. Garrett was made to play Jenny, a character as enigmatic as Marion or Lulu, merely as a B-movie good-time girl.

The four lumberjacks, dressed as day-trippers to Southend, were ciphers. Even so accomplished a comedian as Adrian Thompson was wasted as Paddy the Bookkeeper. There was no sense of a society, any society. Without that, *Mahagonny* fails.

The trial scene, one of the blackest episodes in all 20th-century opera, was played as a big comic production number with TV cameras, make-up girls and "applause" cards the terror evaporated. Similarly with the ensuing Benares Song, the ultimate Twentieth Century Blues, done as a cue link Spots number round a microphone. Of course Donnellan intended a degree of irony, but he miscalculated the balance fatally.

On a more cheerful note, the chorus was on good form. Its Mandalay Song in the brothel scene was one of the few moments when this dismal, incomprehensible evening achieved lift-off.



Lesley Garrett encouraged to play the enigmatic Jenny as a B-movie good-time girl

EXHIBITION: The V & A's Wedgwood bicentenary show is a rare delight

Our history in feats of clay



Wedgwood wares: triangular dish from the Frog Service; Rosso Antico vase and cover; Black Basalt griffin candlestick

The title of the V&A's major summer exhibition is carefully chosen: *The Genius of Wedgwood* and not, as one might expect "The Art of Wedgwood". Gladstone, himself a collector of Wedgwood wares, said of Josiah Wedgwood: "He was the greatest man who ever applied himself to the important work of uniting art with industry." In other words, he was more of an impresario than an original creator.

Wedgwood was not entirely a Diaghilev of the potteries, however. He was trained as a potter, and when he lost a leg at the age of 24, he continued to work obsessively on the technical side, constantly experimenting with new materials and new ways of doing things. He became a great reader and self-educator, so that in later life he was able to meet the most distinguished artists and cognoscenti of his time on equal terms. He was also, clearly, a salesman of genius.

This makes him the first in a line of expert businessmen involved with packaging and marketing the arts: his successors would probably be Fabergé, Lalique and Sir Terence Conran. In the late 18th century — and ever since — the name of Wedgwood attached to a piece of ceramic stood as a guarantee of quality.

Mention the name of Wedgwood today, and the image is of white, cameo-like

designs on a background of pale blue or sometimes pale green. It may come as a surprise in the exhibition, which marks the bicentenary of Josiah's death, that this kind of Wedgwood, the Jasper ware, figures so little, and is put clearly in perspective as a minor though distinctive element in Wedgwood's total output.

The most spectacular part of the show is quite different — some 300 of the 770 surviving pieces from the Frog Service, commissioned by Catherine the Great in 1773 and so called because it was made for her new Cheshemski Palace, built on a site originally called the Frog Marsh.

Only once since they were shipped to Russia have any of these extraordinary pieces been seen in England — in 1909 — and then only a very few, so the present loan from the Hermitage offers a unique opportunity. The particular interest of the Frog Service is in its decoration, which kept 30 china-painters busy in Chelsea for several years. The designs, different on each piece, are no less than an illustrated gazetteer to the historic and picturesque sites of Britain. Stately homes, crumbling ruins, megalithic and natural phenomena such as Fingal's Cave are all recorded in crisp and meticulous detail, in monochrome on a creamy background.

The Frog Service takes up the whole final gallery of the show. Before that we follow Josiah's early history, his first experiments, and his crucial contacts with the artistic elite of his time. These were brought about first through his partnership with Thomas Bentley, who moved him in the direction of neo-classicism.

Wedgwood, with or without Bentley, evidently had an eye for talent, commissioning designs from many younger artists before they were recognised as important, among them Flaxman and Stubbs, and bringing in established figures such as Reynolds and Angelica Kauffman to advise and design.

A visual guide to 18th-century Britain, a who's-who of neo-classical design, an insight into the workings of the first Industrial Revolution: the show offers all of these and much more to delight the expert as well as those with the least claim to expertise, whether or not they want to go further than just looking and revelling in what they see.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● The Genius of Wedgwood is at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 0JF (0171-338 8441) until September 17. Admission £4.75, concessions £2.75

Wedgwood at Port Sunlight, page 23

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Deep-sea diving at the National Maritime Museum — "things only seem to go wrong when adults have a go"

There is a ubiquity about Vivien Duffield these days. When not banging the diatonic drum for the Royal Opera House, she is doing it for the Dulwich Picture Gallery, when not funding the building of the Tate's Turner Gallery, she has been founding the extraordinary Eureka children's educational museum in Halls.

Her latest exertion has been at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, with its new attempt to address the young. All Hands, to which her own foundation has contributed £150,000 of the £400,000 fitting-out costs.

"Without her it wouldn't have happened," says Richard Ormond, the museum's director. "and not just financially. She went through here like a tornado as we were planning it, saying 'That won't work. That's great. That'll work if you do this... and she was spot on every time.'"

And so the National Maritime Museum has a nautical playground in which education creeps up barely noticed. The All Hands Gallery is the museum's latest innovation, set in the £1.3 million Leopold Muller education centre, opened last month.

My six-year-old helper, Adam, now knows from first hand experience that you can send Morse messages in sound and light, that in loading cargo you can easily dip your vessel over, and that it is extremely difficult to hit a moving target with a cannon ball fired from a ship. And most importantly to Adam, that in the 16th century sailors ate rats.

Two years ago the museum carried out an uncomplicated experiment in populism by mounting *Pirates*, an unashamed exploration of picaresque truth and false aimed at children. The result was a 20 per cent increase in visitor figures over the year. It spurred Ormond to press for

the new education centre, where children's imaginations can first be caught in this interactive gallery.

The first element is historical, a series of five islets dedicated to seafaring in the 8th, 10th, 13th and 19th centuries, with the present represented by Tracy Edwards's all-

worms. We felt the size and weight of the huge rivets which held Brunel's *Great Eastern* together, and were delighted to find that Edwards's crew each had a "comfort box" which included a clean pair of knickers.

All this is firmly but unobtrusively linked to key stage areas in the National Curriculum, and almost every item has a physics lesson as well as an historical one.

Then come the various communications systems, from semaphore to radio, then "cargo handling". Adam's second favourite. Children are stewards transferring bundles of different weights from a pallet onto a boat floating on gimballs. If they load it wrongly, the thing capsize, klaxons sound, red lights flash and everybody knows who did it.

We found out about propulsion, how the shape of a propeller affects its efficiency, how pistons work and how a sail should be positioned to get the best push from the wind. For older children there is computerised piloting — navigating a ship out of a narrow

harbour avoiding sand banks; harbour walls and other moving vessels. We soon ran aground and hurried on to gunnery. For this, the hands sit before a cannon to fire at a target they can only see at a computer screen. They have five shots, adjusting their trajectory to take in wind direction, distance and deck movement. Few hit the target.

On hand all the time are "explainers", who are all graduates and whose duties are less to police than to instruct. According to one of them,

Jenny Riley, "things only seem to go wrong when adults have a go". Such as the experiment in which a diver's work is simulated by putting your hands through huge gloves into a tank in which you have to connect two ends of an almost invisible cable. The worst culprits, for some reason, are French teenagers. "I liked the divers, and loading the ship, and blowing the sail," was Adam's judgement, but inevitably: "I liked shooting the cannon best, even if I didn't hit anything."

● Admission to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF costs £5 for adults, £3 for children, with no further charge for All Hands.

● The museum is open from 10am to 5pm daily. All Hands is open to the public from 2.30 to 5pm on term-time weekdays, with the mornings reserved for school parties.

● The museum's education and interpretation group offers teachers special programmes highlighting National Curriculum and GCSE aspects. Further information can be obtained by calling the bookings unit on 0181-312 6608/6651. The museum's general telephone number is 0181-858 4422.

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

● **ANYT' MISBEHAVIN'** Exhibition song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fab Walker. Non-stop energy on stage. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

● **AMPHITRYON** Kier's tragicomic version of the old tale about divine inviolability in the marriage bed. Creditable revival by David McNair. Gade, 11 Pentridge Rd, W11 (0171-229 0708). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

● **CROSSING THE EQUATOR** New Jane Cates play, set on a ship leaving post-war England for Australia. John Dove directs latest work by the author of *Cat with Green Violin* and *Backstroke in a Crowded Pool*. South, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm. At least until July 8.

● **DART-DART** Lynne Parker directs Tanya Haggis's commissioned play from Glynis Molyneux. A gang of Cork teenagers coping with sex and boredom in the long hot summer of 1930. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-222 9301). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens June 13, 7pm.

● **DEALERS CHOICE** Patrick Marber's fascinating poker drama. Funny one-liners abound, along with perceptions of the roots of gambling. Wyndham's, Strand, WC2 (0171-536 5887). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat & 10pm, mat. Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

● **THE DUCHESSE OF MALFI** Juliet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beale in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the battlefield of the mind. Wyndham's, Strand, WC2 (0171-536 5887). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat & 10pm, mat. Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

● **FIVE GUYS NAMED HOO** The joint is jumping again now that Chris Pearce's cabaret musical has bounced back into the West End. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1739). Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 4.45pm.

● **HARVEY** Last back performance by Gordon Kane in very fine comedy about an invisible rabbit. Wyndham's, Strand, WC2 (0171-536 5887). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat & 10pm, mat. Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

● **HOT MEXICO** Inevitably enjoyable sex and plotting version of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera. Superb clowning from Ross Lehman's No-No.

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NEW RELEASES

● **THE BRIMBY BUNCH MOVIE** (10): Adventure of an unusually intrepid L.A. family. Endearing send-up of the 70s sci-fi comic, with Shirley Long and Gary Cole. Director: Barry Thomas. Warner (0202 889211) MGRS.

● **CRIMINAL MINDS** (11): A gripping thriller about a man, one baby, one nanny and the in-laws. Not for macho males. With Richard B. Sherry, Samantha Mahis. Director: Tim Sullivan. Warner (0171-437 4343).

● **JACK & SARAH** (11): Time British comedy about one man, one baby, one nanny and the in-laws. Not for macho males. With Richard B. Sherry, Samantha Mahis. Director: Tim Sullivan. Warner (0171-437 4343).

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CINEMA GUIDE

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ARTS

7

RECORDINGS: Proof that they don't write them like they used to; Liszt's homage to Schubert; putting the sexiness back into operetta

David Sinclair

DARYLL-ANN
You're So Vain
Hut/Virgin HUTDG 58**
KIRSTY MACCOLL & EVAN DANDO
Perfect Day
Virgin VSCDT 1552**

Daryl-Ann strip down the old Carly Simon song, *You're So Vain* (who was she talking about?), and rebuild it with a wonderfully sinewy, tom-tom driven arrangement and Neil Young-style guitar solo, while preserving the sophisticated melody intact.

Meanwhile, Kirsty MacColl and chief Lemonhead Evan Dando join voices, hands and hearts to produce a gooey version of Lou Reed's sleepily euphoric tune *Perfect Day*, which although well sung, is rather swamped by an overactive string arrangement.

But both songs are blessed with a timeless appeal, and there is plenty of ammunition here to please the "they don't write them like they used to" brigade.

David Sinclair

Björk

Björk
Post
One Little Indian Records
TLP51**

THE success of Björk's first solo album, *Debut*—two Brits and two and a half million copies sold—was all the more satisfying for being so unexpected. Nobody could have accused the Icelandic chanteuse with a voice as sweet and

sour as summer fruit of trying to be anything she was not. A lot more is riding on the follow-up, the aptly named *Post*, and it is to Björk's credit that she has ignored the temptation either to rein in her eccentricities or create some impenetrable monument to the indie avant-garde.

Arguably, the oddest thing on the album is her version of an old show tune, *It's Oh So Quiet*, originally recorded by the wartime Hollywood star Betty Hutton. Björk's voice is well suited to the song's riotous extremes of emotion—



Perfect day: Kirsty MacColl has teamed up with Evan Dando to revive a Lou Reed classic

"You blow a fuse/Zing boom/The devil cuts loose/Zing boom"—while her use of English as a second language results in some spectacularly mangled phrasing that lends a quirky charm to the conventional big-band arrangement.

Elsewhere on the album, which is again produced by Nelle Hooper, Björk's delivery encompasses a range of conflicting emotions, while conveying a constant sense of wonder and adventure. "I'm going to prove the impossible really exists," she insists on *Cover Me*, while a harp-

chord delicately battles against the sound of an electrical storm gathering in the distance.

Her songs are built like crazy paving, carefully pieced together out of unlikely, angular musical shapes, and on *Enjoy and Headphones*, both co-written with man-of-the-moment Tricky, she puts her own unique spin on the trip-hop experience.

Another brave and compelling collection, *Post* suggests that Björk has both moved at her own speed and kept up with the times.

Clive Davis

ANTONIO CARLOS JOBIM

Antonio Brasileiro
Columbia 46281-2**
NOBODY will know how the studio meeting between Antonio Carlos Jobim and Joe Henderson, planned for last year, might have turned out: Henderson never withdrew. Henderson nevertheless managed to finish work on a tribute to Jobim,

Double Rainbow, released a few months ago. As for *Antonio Brasileiro*—recorded shortly before the composer's death in December—the traditional virtues of eloquence, guileless melody and subtle embellishment make for idyllic summer listening.

At his most sophisticated, Jobim was a walking definition of that amorphous term "world music". His creations are sui generis, a combination of muted jazz harmonies, light but insistent pop hooks and a refined folk sensibility. The unobtrusive settings for cello and flute, and the stately string-driven instrumentals, add to the impression that we have passed into a realm where normal categories have been suspended.

New versions of two of his most popular compositions find their way onto this collection. *Só Danço Samba* bounces along with the help of lifting female backing vocals (another of his trademarks) and takes an all too brief detour through Stan Kenton's *Intermission Riff*. Sing is the guest performer on the English-language rendition of the plaintive *Insenesce*.

Jobim's sentimental streak gets the better of him on the coy *Samba de Maria Lusa* and the predictable coo-sonnets of *Forever Green*. He quickly regains his balance, however, closing with the compelling staccato rhythms of *Trem de Ferro*, an hypnotic setting of a poem by Manoel Bandeira.

PETE LA ROCA

*Blue Note CDP-8320912***
THE presence of the aforementioned Joe Henderson is one unimpeachable reason for seeking out this fascinating 1965 quartet session, released as part of the limited edition *Connoisseur* series. Another is the haunting treatment of the *Laotouche-Moross* ballad *Lesy Afternoon*.

A highly disciplined drummer who subsequently abandoned a full-time career in music in order to practise law, La Roca urges his musicians forward without resorting to polyrhythmic overkill; even his standard blues tune marches to an unorthodox beat quite distinct from the usual Blue Note formula.

Steve Swallow and Steve Kuhn play a full part in what is a truly collective venture, not a mere blowing session.

Hilary Finch

Liszt

The Schubert Transcriptions Vols 2 and 3
Leslie Howard
Hyperion CDA 69541/5

*6657/9***
WITHIN his own massive survey of Liszt's piano music (already 60 discs released out of a projected 80), Leslie Howard has just completed his three volumes (three discs each) of the composer's loving transcriptions of Schubert.

The wonder of the art of transcription lies not only in its variety—from simple arrangements to total re-creations—but in our being able to experience vicariously the responses of one composer to another. Volume Two contains the selections Liszt made from Schubert's great song cycles. The songs from *Die Schöne Müllerin* give a sense of eavesdropping on quiet, delighted improvisations; *Winterreise* is reverent, but cannot resist vivid splashes of greasepaint in the form of ingenious, evocative figurative (the storm threatening the *Lindenbaum*, for instance).

For *Schwanengesang*, though, Schubert's swansongs, one can almost feel Liszt genuflecting. Little is done but to reveal these pieces as the great musical works they are, through the cunning and eloquent interplay of registers and voices.

In Volume Three, Howard offers Liszt's second version of *Die Schöne Müllerin*, alternative versions for several songs in the other cycles, and a generous compilation of Schubert's greatest hits. The two voices within *Erlkönig* are counterpointed in a hair-raising

the gallop from Offenbach's *Barbe-bleue* and Quilico finds a couple of numbers written for tenor rather than baritone steep going. Otherwise they adapt with easy charm and linguistic fluency to three different styles. The Lyons Orchestra is heard at its best on home French territory.



Howard: generous selection

ing narrative, while Liszt exploits the already exquisite dappling of water and light in *Auf dem Wasser zu singen*, until it romps away in its own rhapsodic right.

OPERETTA DUETS
Hendricks/Quilico/Lyons
Opera Orchestra/Foster
EMI Classics 5 55151 2 4

*(1 CD)***
BARBARA HENDRICKS and Gino Quilico seem to seek the half-forgotten world of Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth at the start of this agreeable recital. Out come the songs from *Rose Marie* and *The Desert Song* and others spun by those old refugees of the central European coffee houses, Friml and Romberg. Fortunately they soon move on to classier material.

The French section is especially good, with the two hits from Messager's *Véronique*, the *Swing Song* and the *Donkey Duo*. Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette* still comes over as



Hendricks: suggestiveness

a very refined piece. But some of the other French composers of the interwar years went in for material that was much sexier. Yvain and Christine were among them and the latter's *Phi-Phi*, a kind of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, had to be cleaned up considerably before it came to London. Hendricks and Quilico put the suggestiveness right back into both composers.

The closing Viennese selection is more familiar, but it is a pleasure to hear Heuberger's *Im chambre séparée* as a complete scene rather than as a song for soprano. There are a couple of weaknesses: Hendricks has not the agility for

the gallop from Offenbach's *Barbe-bleue* and Quilico finds a couple of numbers written for tenor rather than baritone steep going. Otherwise they adapt with easy charm and linguistic fluency to three different styles. The Lyons Orchestra is heard at its best on home French territory.

MESSAGE

La Basoche, Fortunio
LECOQ
Le Petit Duc
Extracts with Berton/Legay/
Clément/Dens
EMI Classic 5 68295 2 7

*(2 CDs)***
MORE slices of operetta come on the Belle Epoque label. Messenger is strongly represented by *La Basoche*, one of his most substantial pieces despite a twaddly plot involving British royalty. Henri Legay is in silken form as the poet Marot who becomes involved with England's Princess Mary, Liliiane Berton's perky Colette sets things right.

The same composer's *Fortunio* is less inspired, but Lecoq's *Le Petit Duc* is an inviting curiosity, not least because the duke in question (who is only 18) and his intended duchess are both female cast. Liliiane Berton and Nadine Renaux make a musically pretty pair long before Strauss started thinking about Octavian and the Marschallin. Lecoq uses quite a lot of Mozart pastiche, but includes some comic numbers and a glorious pages chorus. All very camp and well worth a revival.

ORCHESTRAL
Barry Millington

SPOHR
Clarinet Concertos Nos 1 & 3
Ottensamer/Slovak State
Philharmonic Orchestra/
Widner
Naxos 8.550688**

THOUGH enormously popular in his day, much of Louis Spohr's output is now regarded as little more than an historical curiosity. The four clarinet concertos, however, of which two are heard on this budget-price Naxos disc, are an exception. They have retained their place in the repertoire alongside those of his contemporary Weber (with whom Spohr is momentarily confused in an otherwise excellent booklet note). And rightly so, for these works are full of melodic appeal and invention.

Both pieces on this disc are in minor keys, lending an element of drama and Romantic sensibility to a basically conservative harmonic idiom. Both, too, are virtuoso works, though not ostentatiously so; indeed, the C minor ends on a curiously subdued note. They are beautifully played by Ernst Ottensamer, who is fully in command technically as well as alert to the expressive qualities of the music.

STENHAMMAR
Symphonies Nos 1 & 2
Serenade in F
Ecclesford
Gothenburg Symphony
Orchestra/Hävi
DG 445 857-2 (2 CDs)**
THIS double CD offers a most attractive introduction to the music of the Romantic Swedish composer Wilhelm Sten-

hammar (1871-1927). His harmonic language is ripe post-Wagnerian, with overtones of Sibelius and Nielsen.

The early First Symphony (1902-03) was later disowned by Stenhammar as being too derivative of his 19th-century predecessors. There are indeed very Brucknerian passages at the end of the second and fourth movements, but perhaps a surging reservation might concern the lack of conflicts and tensions that generally characterise a symphony, as well as an overlong, undisciplined finale. Nevertheless, this is inventive, fluently melodious music.

With the Serenade and Second Symphony, both from a slightly later period (1911-15), we are on stronger ground. The inspiration for the Sere-



Hävi: enchanting experience

nade came while Stenhammar was visiting Florence in spring 1907 and depicts the northern climes of the south. The warmly glowing, subtle colouring of his orchestration contrasts with the dazzling brilliance of, say, a Respighi. The Waltz is particularly ravishing, but the Gothenburgers make the whole suite an enchanting experience.

The Second Symphony melds folk idioms, modal harmonies and mellow late Romantic harmonies with a strong sense of driving momentum (especially in the finale). This is exhilarating stuff, superbly performed.

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★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

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GARDENING

9

Now is the month to turn over a new leaf in your conservatory, says Patricia Morison

Doing time in the glasshouse

Midwinter is the orthodox time for articles about conservatories. In the belief that we are all desperate to escape the bleak reality of outdoors. However, now is the moment to look critically at the conservatory — to report, re-stock, and maybe turn over a new leaf. In June, tender exotics are fairly leaping out of their pots — all those gorgeous plants such as passion flowers, oleanders, mandevillas and lapagerias. Bought this month, given a few weeks to acclimatise, and then potted on, your new conservatory treasures should grow like trifids.

I went to the famous glasshouses of Hales Hall in Loddon, Norfolk, to ask Terence Read, a specialist in conservatory plants, to recommend species that are easy to grow and which will provide a year-round haven of exquisite colours and scents. If that sounds like an impossible dream, Mr Read is sympathetic. Many of his customers arrive lamenting their conservatories, costly "glass elephants" so ineptly designed that achieving even a scrawny plumbago is a miracle.

Ventilation is crucial because an inadequate air-flow brings a pack of problems. Conservatories should have ample top lights. If yours does not, Mr Read advises installing an extractor fan — always assuming that a supply of fresh air is coming in from somewhere. Otherwise, he warns: "In the coming months, many conservatories become like Arizona and plants' roots literally cook."

The Norfolk Reads have been in the nursery business for generations. In the 1960s, Mr Read's great-grandfather started growing melons, superb gold-netted strains of his own, which he produced 11 months of the year outside Norwich and sent up to London by train. He

Terence Read (above) specialises in conservatory plants. The *Datura sanguinea*, although poisonous, has a heady nocturnal perfume

even supplied Norfolk melons to a maharajah in India. Latest in the lineage of Reads Nurseries is Hales Hall, in the middle of nowhere on the site of a vanished medieval palace. The Reads' house was its domestic wing although, when they bought it 25 years ago, pigs were being kept upstairs and downstairs. The Reads also restored the largest brick barn in Britain, a magnificent 180ft-long structure built in the 1480s by the same grandees who built Blickling Hall, now owned by the National Trust. In its lee stands the half-acre nursery glasshouses, filled with a tempting array of plants.

White-flowered *Mandevilla suaveolens* is the choice for scent but *M. amona* 'Alles du Pont' is a glorious evergreen with pink trumpets, modestly priced at £8.25. Passion flowers sound better than they are, for the harder forms tend

Care in the conservatory

□ Reads Nursery, Hales Hall, Loddon, Norfolk NR14 6QW (01508 548305). The nursery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-1pm and 2-5pm, Sundays 2-5pm (not in winter). For the catalogue, send four first-class stamps. Plants are supplied by mail order.

□ Potting on and feeding: for lime-hating plants, Mr Read recommends using a John Innes formula compost No. 2 or 3, and adding to it 20 per cent by volume of Cambrak Peat and Bark Professional Potting Compost. This helps to keep the soil structure open. It is sold by independent garden centres at around £6.99 for 75 litres. For feeding, he recommends the Chempak range.

"Never tether your donkey under a datura," say the Medicans. *Datura* is the old name for this species, poisonous but showy and with a heady nocturnal perfume. With them, the trick is to feed and feed. Again, the palette is wide for high chic, apricot 'Grand Marier' sports two-tone leaves edged with cream.

If space is short, *clivias* are very easy to grow and their solid bulk of strap-like leaves have presence. Around the world, breeders are busy widening or shrinking the *clivia*'s familiar orange trumpet, turning it red, yellow or white. Mr Read hears of Japanese growers selling new *clivias* for £1,500. He, too, is breeding but his best new forms (not yet in the catalogue) are more modest at around £80. A large *Clivia miniata* costs £25. Mine is ten years old and lives in the bathroom, but *clivias* are happy just about anywhere.

Henry Doubleday's new organic garden

After Ryton comes a plot showing the history of green gardening

THE Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA), the largest organic gardening organisation in Europe, has a new garden in Yalding, Kent. It aims to become an educational record of the history of green gardening — but the project is proving to be a challenge.

The idea started with Donald Cooper and his wife, Pricie, of Yalding. In the 1960s and 1970s Mr Cooper did well out of his packaging business, while his wife became a devotee of organic gardening. Her enthusiasm persuaded Mr Cooper to start growing organic vegetables as a business venture, selling them to supermarkets.

Shortly before Mr Cooper's death in 1992 he gave the HDRA a ten-acre field, a long lease on a house for a gardener and a substantial donation. Work on the project began in August 1992. Deciding the lay-out was the easy part. There would be a stretch of woodland and a series of gardens, including a 13th-century apothecary; a 16th-century Tudor knot; a late 19th-century garden; a post-Second World War allotment; organic fruit and vegetables; and one for children. A large pond will attract the wildlife needed for pest control, such as frogs and toads.

The practicalities of this project have been fraught with problems. When the HDRA moved to Warwickshire in 1985 and created the now-famous organic garden at Ryton near

Coventry, the garden, at the foot of a hill, had to be protected from wind and frost. The one at Yalding is in a similar location, and the nearest windbreak is half a mile away. To compensate for lack of protection against wind and frost a holly hedge has been incorporated in the 13th-century garden and 10,000

whips in the mini "forest". The HDRA has also created a shelter belt of native trees. In the short term, they are having to use several thousand yards of temporary netting as an additional windbreak.

The soil is also causing problems. The garden at Ryton is blessed with sandy, malleable loam; in Yalding it is heavy clay. Peter Bateman, the project manager of Yalding Gardens, says: "The moisture

content of the soil can change so much in a few hours it is difficult to create a ditch for sowing." The Yalding gardeners are having to play the plot with organic matter — mainly compost made on site — to make the soil manageable.

"Although the gardens are in their infancy there is plenty to interest everyone. By high summer our celosias, amaranthus and mignonettes will be looking wonderful," Mr Bateman says. Given enough sunshine, water and a sprinkling of luck, Yalding Gardens will be blooming.

JESSICA GORST-WILLIAMS

Yalding Organic Gardens, Benbow Road, Yalding, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 6EX (01622 84655).

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STARTING TODAY, THE TIMES OFFERS READERS THE CHANCE

A holiday hideaway for life

Four readers will win a week's holiday accommodation every year for life, with access to 2,900 resorts in 80 countries through RCI

Today The Times offers readers the chance to win luxury holiday accommodation in a beautiful location. The four winners of our competition will receive a week's holiday accommodation each year for the rest of their lives, in a luxury timeshare home at a location in one of four countries: Scotland, Portugal, Spain or the United States. The four prizes are offered by The Times in conjunction with the holiday exchange company RCI. Winners, and their family or friends, will stay for one week each year in a private retreat beside a sparkling loch, or an apartment on the Costa del Sol, a private club on the Algarve, or a villa in Florida.

Part of the prize is three years' membership of RCI, which means that for this period the four winners can exchange the time won for holidays at alternative timeshare resorts in the RCI network, in the Far East, the Caribbean, India and other parts of the world.

Choosing where to stay will not be difficult. As RCI members, winners will be able to bank their time and request a week at one of the 2,900 resorts in the network. They could pick places for holidays in the sun, or winter sports, or a walking break, from locations in 80 countries.

Alternatively, our winners can visit their resort at a different time of year from the one suggested here. RCI will pay for flights for each winner and one companion to visit the resort in the first year.

Each of the four is designated a "Gold Crown" resort by RCI, an award it gives to just 13 per cent of its many locations, signifying excellence and the most stringent standards. Therefore the winners can expect outstanding holidays. See right for details of each prize resort's attractions. For a chance to win this prize, all you have to do is collect five of the seven tokens we are publishing. Token 1 is printed below; further tokens will appear from Monday.

CHOICES THROUGH RCI RESORTS

Winter sports, far away places, exploring Britain's countryside or simply lying on the beach in the sun are all made simple when you stay at an RCI-affiliated resort. It has 1.9 million member-families worldwide, 180,000 of them in the UK.

The organisation was formed in Indianapolis, Indiana more than 20 years ago, originally as a system to swap US holiday apartments among friends. It published its first directory of resorts in 1975, grew to 100,000 members in 1983 and now has 62 offices in 29 countries.

RCI, with its European headquarters at Kettering, Northants, also offers timeshare owners a full travel service, including flights, car hire and travel insurance. As well as its directory of resorts, it publishes a quarterly magazine. Its team can arrange short breaks, tickets for a West End show or a trip down the Nile.

Using its bargaining power, RCI is able to obtain competitive prices for members from leading airlines, cruise lines and car-hire companies. For further information about the services call: 01536 314570.



Among the choices available to our winners are idyllic locations in the tropical sun

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the holiday accommodation simply collect five out of the seven tokens we are publishing in The Times today and each day until Saturday June 17. Complete the application form below, attach the tokens and send to:

The Times/ RCI Holiday Competition, PO Box 6883, London E2 8ST, to arrive no later than Monday, July 3 1995.

The winners will be the first four entries picked at random from the postal bag, after the closing date. The winners will be notified by post.

Employees of News International Newspapers

Ltd or of any company connected with the competition are not eligible to take part. Only original tokens will be considered valid. Photocopies are not acceptable.

There is no limit to the number of entries from any individual.

Entrants must be aged 18 and over.

Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge by post. Only four tokens can be supplied per application. Applicants must send a sae to The Times/ RCI Holiday Competition, PO Box 490, London E1 9DW.

Timeshare holiday bookings by the winners are subject to RCI's usual terms and conditions.

THE TIMES/RCI APPLICATION FORM

Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone number

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from The Times or companies approved by them. ☐



Winners will have the chance to take their families to resorts in exotic or rural locations worldwide



Cameron House Estate, Scotland

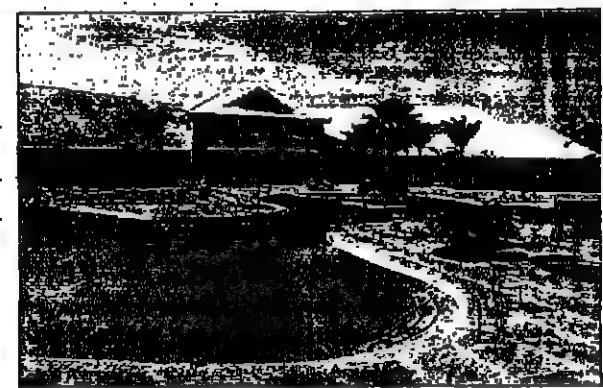
The Scottish centre, Cameron House Hotel and country estate, covers 108 acres on the banks of Loch Lomond amid spectacular scenery. The winner here will spend their annual week in one of the 45 lodges in the wooded grounds.

The many outdoor pursuits include fishing, clay pigeon shooting and pony trekking. There is a private marina and nine-hole golf course. The hotel has an indoor leisure centre with two pools, squash courts, gymnasium, Jacuzzi and steam room.

Three restaurants provide an informal menu for families in the marina, a brasserie-style restaurant, and the Georgian Room where the executive chef, Jeff Bland, has a Michelin Star.

The prizewinner will stay in a one-bedroom sandstone and timber lodge available in mid-October. It has a luxury kitchen and Bang & Olufsen stereo system. The winner will own their week at the lodge in perpetuity, so it can be handed on to children.

Owners pay a yearly maintenance fee (currently £205) for upkeep. An annual dwelling tax of £47 is payable. Cameron House will pay both for the winner for the first year. More information, and details of viewing breaks, available on 01389 755625.



Silver Lake Resort, Florida

Silver Lake Resort, which opened in 1992, is on a tropical, landscaped 100-acre site at Orlando, Florida, bordering Walt Disney World.

Leisure facilities include an outdoor heated swimming pool with a large sun deck, children's pool and whirlpool spa. There are tennis courts, a half basketball court and discounted green fees at the Oaks golf course which is a few minutes' drive away.

An eight-storey recreational, fitness and business centre is planned to open in March 1996. A bonus is that Silver Lake guests can buy discounted tickets for most attractions in the Orlando area, so avoiding long ticket queues.

For occupancy in October, the spacious two-bedroom villa donated for the winner by Silver Lake Resort is one of 90 villas on the site. It has a king-size bed in the master suite.

The villa is very well equipped. Its kitchen has all the appliances you could need. There is also a large Jacuzzi and three remote-control television sets.

The yearly maintenance fee, currently \$385 (£242), will be waived by the resort for the first year.

Information about Silver Lake is available on 001 407 397 2828.



Miraflores Rancho Club, Spain

The Costa del Sol in Spain is the location of our first resort, Miraflores Rancho Club, midway between Fuengirola and Marbella. It is an excellent base from which to visit the delights of Andalusia such as Granada, Cordoba, Seville and the ski slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

Miraflores has 18 swimming pools, for lazy, relaxing days. The near-perfect year-round climate encourages a huge variety of plants and trees, creating a profusion of colour.

Golf is a big attraction here. There is an 18-hole championship course, one of dozens of first-class courses along the coast. Miraflores has opened a golf academy with a 28-bay driving range, multi-lingual teaching professionals and video analysis room.

In the evening you can eat at one of the restaurants, or there is plenty of nightlife in Marbella and Porto Banus.

The winner's accommodation for a week each year is an air-conditioned one-bedroom apartment. The ownership week falls at the end of October and there is an annual maintenance fee for the upkeep of furnishings and amenities (£168 in 1995), waived for the first year.

For details of the resort call 0034 52 836375.



Four Seasons Vilamoura, Portugal

Golfers are well catered for at Four Seasons Vilamoura, a prestige private club on the Algarve just 20 minutes' drive from Faro airport. It is bordered by the ninth and tenth fairways of the championship Golf Dois course.

Four Seasons owners enjoy discounted fees with guaranteed starting times on three 18-hole courses, among the 14 on the Algarve.

Entertainment and leisure facilities at the club are excellent. There are two outdoor adult swimming pools and a children's pool set in landscaped gardens. Indoors there is a heated pool with sauna and whirlpool bath, bar, squash court, gymnasium, and snooker tables. In addition, there is a massage clinic, beauty parlour with hairdressing salon and children's games room.

The winner at Four Seasons Vilamoura will have a two-bedroom penthouse appointed to very high standards with a Jacuzzi and television with satellite channels. The week's availability is in October each year and the penthouse can be passed on in the family. Maintenance fees, currently £268 a year, will be waived for the first year.

For more information about Four Seasons Vilamoura, or to visit, call 00351 89 302799/302800.

Making a hash of rearing chicks

I am trying very, very hard to be good, but it is proving to be a bit of a strain. I set out with a simple intention: to produce chickens for the table as sympathetically as possible, fed as naturally as any chicken could wish, and generally given an admittedly brief but glorious life before eventually meeting the Pazo packet.

All this started from a conviction that, with the possible exception of pork, chicken is the food which modern farming and food-processing techniques have done most to devalue. The meat is bland, rubbery, watery and hardly worth buying, unless price is a big consideration. There is no treat any more in eating chicken; and life is not much fun for the chickens either.

So I have set out to produce an organic chicken at an affordable price. I chose organic because of all the methods of raising meat, none is more tightly controlled or sympathetic to the animals. The organic standard, which now applies across Europe, sets down the way in which the chickens must be housed and fed, and bans such things as beak clipping, which is widely used to prevent bored and

over-crowded birds from eating each other in order to pass the time on a wet afternoon.

My system, which complies with all the organic requirements, is to keep the chicks warm and fed in an old pigsty until they have sufficient feathers to face the harsh, outside world. Then they will go out to pasture and peck around. For shelter, and fox-proofing, I have converted a pig arc. The only problem I can envisage is that, as they will have spent their childhood in a pigsty and their adult life in a pig arc, there may be some confusion in their minds as to whether they should cluck or oink.

That apart, so far so good. For my experiment to have any validity, I must approach it on a commercial basis. It would be satisfying to take a slow-growing and traditional breed, such as a Light Sussex, but six months' growing time is longer than any farmer could afford to wait. I decided to buy hybrid chicks and rear a large breeding station,

saying I wanted 50. The girl assumed I meant 50,000. She patiently explained that if it really was as few as 50 I needed, I would have to wait until there were some left after the day's orders had been dispatched; what might be thought of as the sweepings-up.

I found a smaller breeder where my order was looked on with less

decision. "You'll let them out on the grass, won't you?" the lady asked. I promised her I would. "That's the proper way, dear."

I brought them home in a cardboard box, squeaking and as picturesque as an Easter greetings card, and gently put the little

yellow chicks under the warmth of a lamp. Having been very, very good so far, I now started to be very, very bad.

The problem is feeding. Animal nutrition is a complex science and, if growth objectives are to be met, it takes more than the throwing of an ad hoc handful of corn to the chicks every now and again. I

decided to buy their feed ready-mixed and formulated. I stipulated organic and the bags arrived bearing the Soil Association's symbol of approval.

On taking the first scoop out of the bag, the unmistakable stink of fish hit me in the face. It was as if I had been smacked on the cheek by a wet haddock. To be fair, I had been warned that fish meal is a valuable source of protein and as such is essential for sustained growth. The feed merchant and I agreed that as the birds approached maturity, the fish meal would no longer be served lest we ended up producing something more akin to fish fingers than chicken nuggets.

But I am not happy about it. Hardly a week goes by without yet more evidence of ecological disaster looming around our coasts. Ministers from North Sea countries have been meeting in Denmark this week, fretting about these very issues. We hear that overfishing and industrialisation

of fishing techniques is turning the oceans of the world into damp deserts. If you want to envisage the modern fishing business, forget Captain Birdseye, think Captain of Industry. Nor do I want anyone risking their life on the high seas, catching fish to put down the throats of my chickens.

What's the point anyway? All you are doing is turning one form of protein into another. Why not eat the fish in the first place?

The trouble is, if I do not have the fish meal in the chicks' rations they will grow so slowly that I shall end up with table birds more expensive than lobster. Then the world would demand more lobster instead and they, in turn, would be consigned to a hellish intensive farming system.

Of course, it is impossible to be entirely sound from an ecological point of view. If I were, my conscience would not let me eventually wrap the dressed chickens in plastic bags, or even paper ones. So, for the moment I am carrying on with the fishy feed, staggering round the farm smelling like a wet afternoon on the Grimsby fish dock, trying hard to be good and finding it difficult.



PAUL HENNEY

Tiddlers net big polluters



How a small anglers' group fights to keep our rivers clean

Jane Brett can expect a hero's welcome when she joins anglers celebrating the opening of the coarse fishing season next weekend "carrying my begging bowl". She has just taken over a pollution-fighting organisation which, although short of funds, wins hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation for anglers.

Typically, Ms Brett, 39, could spend her week going over a pollution case for which the final claim is likely to be well over £500,000, and then become a weekend missionary to the nation's 3,000,000 anglers — seeking support for what has been described as "the most successful war waged against pollution by an voluntary body in the world". Many people have never heard of the Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA), but polluters have. Big industrial companies have had to bow to this small corps of campaigners, which has a full-time staff of only five. They have been forced to clean up their acts, pay huge amounts in compensation and spend millions on improvements. Privatised water companies, slow to spend overflowing profits on over-flowing sewage, have been hauled into court to have their coffers crowbarred open in the cause of cleaner water.

The anglers' cause was taken up in the late 1940s by John Eastwood, KC, a Bow Street magistrate, who founded the ACA. He sent out 3,000 letters,



Jane Brett (top left) of the ACA: her association monitors polluted waters and alerts the river authorities, pictured above examining poisoned fish

written in longhand, explaining how common law could be used to crush the polluters. Since then, the ACA has fought about 5,000 cases (see panel, right). It has lost only two, and is still battling to get one of those decisions overturned.

It is normal for the association to have up to 40 cases in the legal pipeline. On the present list there are actions against South West Water, Southern Water, Appleby, British Coal, British Petroleum, Dwyfor council in North Wales, Bournemouth, Durham County Council, and North West Water.

Five farmers face action over cow slurry and landfill pollutants, and two fish farmers face the wrath of ACA anglers who claim that they allowed rainbow trout to escape and "pollute" the sacred waters of the British native wild brown trout.

Persistence and the rigorous collection of scientific evidence are the ACA's main tools of success. Aerial surveys are carried out. Volunteers will sit all night in dinghies, over submerged discharge pipes

looking for signs of pollution. However, unless you get on the wrong side of the ACA, it remains eccentrically English: a sort of sabre-toothed pussycat, keeping its claws sheathed unless cornered. Its officials like to quote this "fairy story":

Once upon a time the ACA and the National Rivers Authority had a boat race. The ACA won. A NRA investigation discovered the ACA had had eight people rowing and one steering. The NRA, who had one person rowing and eight steering, hired consultants to produce a comprehensive document.

"Millions of pounds later a new team structure evolved: four steering managers, three senior steering managers and one executive steering manager would operate a performance and appraisal system to give the person rowing more incentive to work harder, make him a key performer, give him empowerment and enrichment. The ACA won the next race by two miles. The NRA sacked the power, sold

the oars, cancelled capital investment for new equipment, halted the development of a new boat, gave high performance awards to the consultants and distributed the money saved as a bonus to senior management."

Typically, the ACA adds a footnote to its story: "Actually, we think highly of the NRA (most of the time)."

Ms Brett, however, is in no mood to sheath the ACA's claws. She joined the association eight years ago as an assistant to Allen Edwards, its renowned campaigning director, and has beaten off strong competition to succeed him.

The association operates from a cramped office in a converted Zionist chapel in

Grantham, Lincolnshire, close to where Margaret Thatcher was born. Ms Brett says: "All the money we win in compensation goes back to the anglers. The ACA gets nothing, unless anglers volunteer it."

"We survive because we win. One or two lost cases could easily see us go under."

"At the moment, I see sewage works as the most urgent problem. Wherever we look, we find under-invested Victorian sewage works putting the environment at risk. If we can get those sorted out, a great chunk of our work would disappear. I want to get on top of this one, but I see a long haul ahead. All too often nobody does anything until they are pushed. It may be that

there are inherited problems with these waterworks, but there is reluctance to spend money to put them right."

Is she not nervous about going into battle against the giants? "Not at all. There may have been a time when the big boys thought they could treat us with contempt, but not any more," she says. "Our record is good enough to persuade most of them to settle out of court. They're the ones who ought to be nervous. The ACA is a tough cookie. So am I."

JACK CROSSLEY

Anglers' Conservation Association, 6 Castleway, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6SW (01476 61008).

Fishing tackle, page 13

Casebook conquers of the anglers' friend

Robert Heskeith, of Southport, Merseyside, a member of the Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA), complained that untreated sewage had ruined a wildlife habitat he had created. Despite objections dating back to 1987, North West Water had largely neglected the problem of its antiquated storm sewer overflows. Offensive matter killed birds and fish.

North West Water faced a six-day trial but settled out of court on the first day, paying £40,000 damages and £50,000 costs, and undertaking to carry out large-scale improvements.

The ACA's first contested High Court case, in 1949, was against the Great Torrington Corporation, North Devon, over sewage in the river Torridge. If it had not won damages and costs, the association could well have folded. It had only £200 in its fighting fund at the time.

Injunctions and damages were awarded against all four defendants.

In 1987, the ACA negotiated £352,685 in compensation for anglers after an escape of flux oil destroyed fish along the length of the River Tees. A case in preparation follows a big fish kill on the river Eden, Cumbria, and the claim is likely to exceed £500,000.



An outflow polluted with chemicals on Humberside

High living on the wing

Feather Report



Swifts can sleep in flight

FEW creatures want sunny skies in mid-June more than the swifts. Their young are just breaking out of the eggshells, and each nestling is going to need thousands of insects in the next few weeks. Clear skies mean food in abundance; wet skies will mean labour and hardship.

Swifts do almost everything on the wing, sometimes even copulating and sleeping. They build in holes under roofs and in towers, but the scraps of grass and feathers from which their nests are made are picked up in the air, then bound together with saliva.

The bird's nest soup so prized in the East is made from the saliva nests of some related species, the cave swiftlets. It is said that if the swiftlets start nesting in a house in Java, the owners abandon it to encourage the birds, and can soon buy a new house out of the profits. But I have not met anyone who has tasted British swifts' nests.

Now that the swifts are feeding their young — usually two or three to a brood — they are using their saliva again.

They collect flying insects in a throat pouch and stick them together with saliva to form a ball. Back at the nest, they cough up bits of the ball for each of the nestlings.

Swifts are one of the finest sights of summer as they dash round the roofs, screaming on their long black wings, then swooping up into their nest holes. Even the young scream feebly inside the hole — and have been reported screaming while still in the eggshell.

There is a brilliant book about swifts written by the late Dr David Lack. *Swifts in a Tower*, published by Methuen in 1956. Lack and his colleagues studied the swifts nesting in the mock-medieval tower of the Oxford Science Museum by replacing the covers of ventilator shafts with glass-backed nesting-boxes. As a schoolboy, I several times climbed the trembling 30ft ladder to the lofty viewing platforms.

But the swifts do not stay long in Britain. As soon as the young can fly — in about mid-July — they are off to South Africa. Their weary parents need two or three weeks to rest and feed, then they follow them. And until the next May, the skies are silent again.

DERWENT MAY

What's about Birders — Watch for gangs of noisy young starlings. Twitters — Olivaceous warbler at Fair Isle, Scotland. Wilson's phalarope at Porlock Marsh, Somerset. Woodchat shrike at Portland Bill, Dorset. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

The new "Mark XII" stands the test of time



In the early days of aviation, pilots needed a watch that was robust, precise and legible, and resistant to shock and magnetic fields.

Their lives depended on it. And IWC, with a heritage in watchmaking stretching back to 1868, had no hesitation in taking up the challenge.

Their first pilot watch, produced in the 30's, satisfied all the criteria. And since the end of that decade, every IWC pilot's watch has had an inner case of soft iron — the perfect shield against strong magnetic forces.

IWC introduced the smaller Mark X, intended also for military use, at the end of the 30's. The stylised "king's arrow" identified the watch as one made specially for the British forces.

The Mark XI appeared in 1948. Selected for issue to RAF pilots, it became the most celebrated and sought-after of all IWC's pilot watches.

For those of you who have never enjoyed the pleasure of owning a Mark XI, we are pleased to announce a worthy successor.

The Mark XII is a marriage of classic design and modern watchmaking technology. Like its predecessor it has that soft iron inner case, making it virtually impervious to magnetic fields. Inside, there is the superb 884 calibre automatic movement, adjusted in five positions.

The Mark XII features a date display with rapid adjustment, a stopwatch



The Mark XII C2.300

second hand and a 45 hour power reserve. With a screw-in crown, the Mark XII is fitted with a sapphire glass (hardness coefficient 9) and is water-resistant to 30 metres. You have the choice of hard-working matt stainless steel or elegant 18ct gold.

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With the coarse fishing season opening next week, Jack Crossley offers a guide to the equipment needed to hook that big catch

Seasonal sales from the river bank

The feel-good factor is on its way to a retail shop near you next week. It's the end of the closed season for those obsessive folk who hunt coarse fish in the fresh waters of our lakes and rivers. And it's open season, too, for those shopkeepers ready to meet the insatiable demand for new tackle which anglers develop at this time of year.

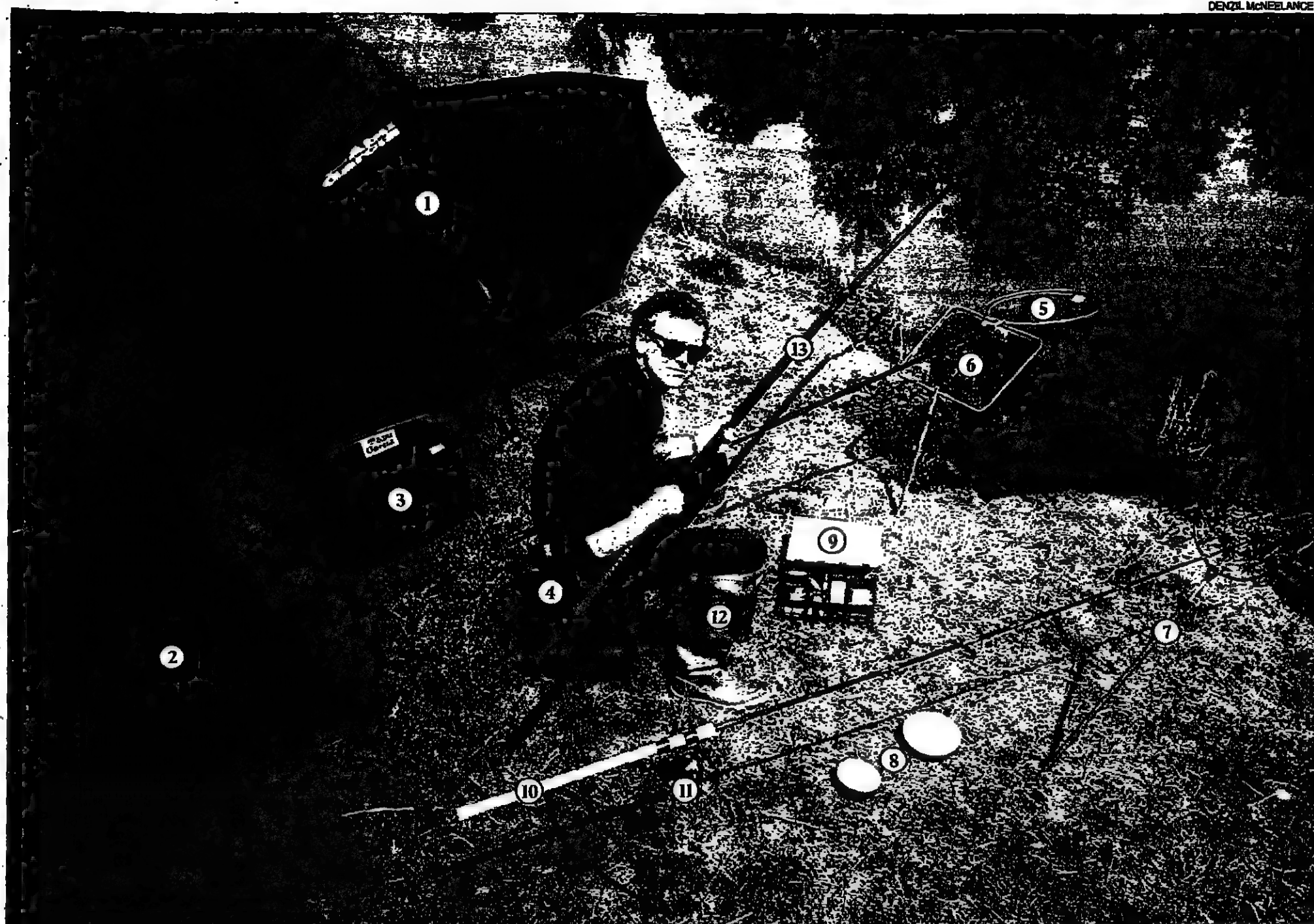
For the uninitiated, a tackle shop is a glittering maze of new fishing gear. If you want to fish like three-times world champion Bob Nudd, then be prepared to spend well over £10,000. That is the cost of his hand-made 17-metre rod (called a pole). Or if you want to fish like Stuart Ravenscroft, a six-year-old who catches pike nearly as big as himself, then you need not spend more than £10. He uses a starter kit which includes a rod, reel, line, float, weights and hooks. But if you want to keep the costs down and still feel that you are in with a chance with the top-notch anglers, you can get in among the fish for between £60 and £100.

Schoolboy Stuart is the son of Stuart Ravenscroft senior, a top tackle agent who specialises in state-of-the-art tackle made by Swedish-based Abu Garcia. It helps that Stuart senior is also a riparian owner of a stretch of the river Mole at Esher in Surrey, which is teeming with pike, carp, chub, bream, roach, dace, perch and barbel.

Mr Ravenscroft is pictured right with a selection of 1995 equipment in the garden of his home overlooking the Mole. "This is a fair example of what dedicated enthusiasts would like to have with them when the season opens," he says. "To buy everything shown here would cost around £800."

"But most anglers start off with much less than this. As a minimum, I would recommend a rod, costing between £30 and £50, and a reel, costing between £15 and £30. Allow another £20 for the line, floats, weights, hooks and so on, and don't forget you need a licence — available from Post Offices — at £15 for a year, £4.50 for eight days or £1.50 for a day. A child who is short of cash and desperate to get started could do worse than buy a reasonable outfit for about £10."

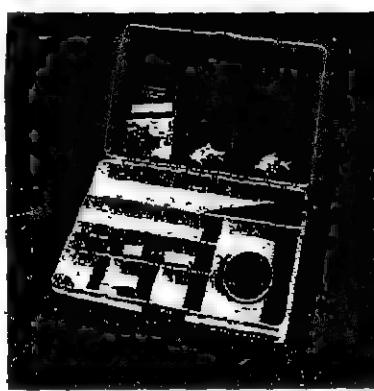
A word of warning, though. There are some poor products on the market that could break a child's heart when they fail to perform. The best advice is to visit a local tackle dealer, explain how much you want to spend, and stick to the branded goods with a good track



Left: Stuart Ravenscroft senior with a selection of 1995 equipment.

1. Umbrella, 110cm, dual tilt, £37.99
2. Ambassador two-pocket holdall, £49.99
3. Ambassador carryall, £34.99
4. Seat box, £149.99
5. Lightweight alloy pan net, 50cm, £14.99, with two-piece telescopic handle, £12.99
6. Rectangular mono keep net, 250cm, with sack bottom, £43.99
7. Alloy bank stick, telescopes from 60cm to 100cm, £5.99
8. Half-pint bait box, 75p; one-and-a-half pint bait box, 80p
9. Tackle box selection, £40.80
10. Gold Max match rod, 12ft, £99.99
11. Closed-face match reel, £79.99
12. Streamfisher waders, £52.99
13. Shakespeare pole, 10.8m, £325

© The equipment shown was supplied by Stuart Ravenscroft (01372 464647) and Gerry's of Wimbeldon (0181 542 7002)



Far left: Beginners' kit tackle box selection, £16.25

Centre: Stuart Ravenscroft junior tries his hand with a telescopic fishing set, £34.99

Left: Beginners' kit, including a Cobra match rod, £28.99, Delta fixed spool reel and two spools, £14.99, Gerry's seat box, £24.99, and half-pint bait box, 75p

brought us equipment which is lighter, stronger and faster. New fishing techniques are always coming along and tackle must match up to these changing demands."

Even though tackle is becoming more innovative, Mr Ravenscroft disagrees with the old saying that angling gear is designed to catch anglers rather than fish.

"Tackle dealers are not trying to rip you off," he says. "Get to know them. They are usually keen anglers themselves, know the local waters and are ready to offer valuable free advice."

"They want you back in the shop every weekend, replacing worn and lost tackle. For there is another old saying in the tackle trade: 'If you ain't losing, you ain't using.'"

record, such as Shakespeare, Abu, Daiwa and Shimano.

Although the beginning of a new season is a bonanza for tackle shops, they have felt the bite of recession over the past two or three years. Mr Ravenscroft says: "What

seems to have happened during the recession is a demand for competitively priced gear that is also value for money, yet which must still perform to high standards. Manufacturers have met this demand with rods costing under £60 and

reels under £30. Keen customers, such as dedicated carp and pike specialists, and match fishermen, will pay £200 to £300 for a rod and up to £150 for a reel. Some match fishermen will pay up to £2,000 for a pole. At the same

time you can buy a shorter pole — called a whip — for only £10," he says. "Even at the cheaper end of the market you can still buy equipment that performs well. You are not doing youngsters a disservice by starting them

off on a low budget. Maybe then they will become high-profile match anglers, prepared to spend hundreds of pounds in the future for ultra-fine tackle that provides the lightness, flexibility, length, speed and control in difficult

conditions needed for precise presentation of the bait. They will want the very latest in sophisticated equipment for catching fish in competitions," Mr Ravenscroft says. "The products are always changing. New technology has

For the best picnic under the sun

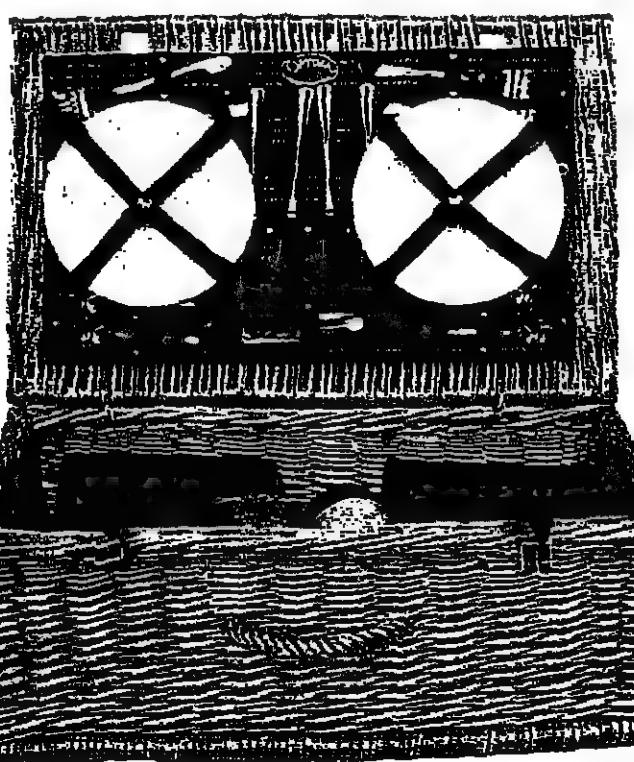
What better way to enjoy the warm summer days (when they finally arrive), than eating al fresco



Rustic tripod stool, £35 from Harrods

(four person, £79). You could pack them with paper plates (eight x 10in, £1.95, Harrods) and wicker paper plate-holders (75p, Jerry's Home Store). Or try plastic plates in clear green or blue (£1.99, House of Fraser) and plastic glasses in dark green decorated with gold stars (highballs £3.45, tumblers £2.95, John Lewis), with plastic wine glasses with dark green stems (£2.25, House of Fraser).

For bright colours or country greens, try opaque acrylic picnicware from Heals in blue, clear, pink, orange, yellow and green (tumblers £1.95, bidded jug £5.95, large bowl £5.95, individual bowls £4.95). While you're there, pick up a checked cotton hammock (£27.50) to make the most of those cool glades. If you don't want to sit on damp grass,



Optima Tartan Ascot Hamper for four, £145 from John Lewis

there is a huge range of portable seats to be found. From Habitat's camp chair (£15, plus sling £5) to Debenhams' simple canvas

camping stool (£9.99), Harrods has a rustic tripod stool with leather seat and traditional carrying handle (£35). Alongside dazzling parrot-

decorated melamine plates and Jacques Cousteau fun glasses you can find wicker-covered glasses and bottles to capture up the atmosphere of a nostalgic pre-war picnic. Good value in this line are Habitat's basket-encased bottles (£5) and matching tumblers (£1.95). Add white melamine plates (£3.95) and Harrods's matching pair of wicker-covered bottles in their own basket (£85) and, for fun, its Party Shaker set (for six, £12.95), containing everything you need to brighten up your cocktails (parasols, coolers, coasters, stirrers and recipes).

Alternatively, go for glamour with the De Luxe Picnic Case for Two from Smythson of Bond Street (£585, £950), with vacuum flasks, bone china crockery, stainless steel cutlery, a milk flask and sandwich containers. The drop-front case is lined inside and out with pigskin (in green, tan, brown or blue), and has a buckled top and carrying strap. Then there is the Cheltenham basket for six from Fortnum and Mason's Harlequin range (16kg, £495), fitted with Limoges bone china crockery, a Flectacon bottle carrier with corkscrew, two lunchboxes, wool rug, wicker double bottle basket and wicker glass basket with cut crystal glasses.

Flectacon is a thermal insulation material which is guaranteed to keep food cool or hot for up to five hours, and the range includes everything from thermoplastic plates (£4) and lunchboxes (£5) to the standard picnic bag (£22.50) and the Rug Bag (£59), a 25-litre insulating bag that turns into a waterproof rug.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

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When Granny is out of her tree

FOLLOWING YOUR HEART
By Susanna Tamara,
translated by Avril Bardoni
Secker, £9.99

I SUSPECT that the only reason this novel has sold more than one million copies is that it is not really a novel at all, but a feel-good thinly disguised as fiction.

It takes the form of a letter from an ailing 80-year-old Italian woman to her granddaughter in America, in which she seeks to excuse a pretty inexcusable past. The granddaughter, it soon emerges, is fled from Trieste and her letter-writing granny in a state of exasperation, as her mother did before her. For granny is a dippy sojourner with nature, forever flinging her arms around the nearest tree because, tellingly, "none of the things which enable it to live depends upon its own will. It exists; that is all."

She is avidly keen on pronouncing meaningless shreds of mysticism. "On the grass be the grass, under the oak be the oak, among people be a person" is a particular favourite, although "silence is like a wet cloth; it does away for ever with the film of dust" is perhaps more breathtakingly banal.

The letters, which she intends to be read after her death, are attempts at self-justification: their message: forgive me, for I have long forgiven myself. In explication, she sets out her life story — a series of uncharitable, deceitful and selfish acts. Her wrong-doing, she claims, was the fault of her parents, who sapped her self-esteem. She married a man she did not love, had an affair with one she did, and a daughter, Ilaria, by him. Later Ilaria — the mother of the letters' recipient — became an unhappy and mutinous drug addict and died in a car crash, yet to her mother she was "a parasitic climber".

Here is a woman who has lived through the Occupation yet can only write, "It must seem strange that I should omit any mention of all the tragic events taking place". Not really, since she claims: "To fight for an idea when you have no clear idea about yourself is one of the most dangerous things you can do." I would like to think that this ludicrous clap-trap was written ironically but I fear not. Its earnest prose seriously suggests that the path to happiness lies in ignoring Fascism and hugging trees, a more hateful philosophy, surely, than fighting for an idea.

PENNY PERRICK

Try the following experiment at any informal social gathering: a lunch or dinner party, a drink in the pub after work. Say that you have enjoyed or been moved by a poem, that you want to read it to them and ask their opinion. Watch the faces of your friends as they reach for the conversational equivalent of their revolvers: "What, right now?", "Must you?", "What's the matter with you, then?", "Sorry, we really must be going".

And they will not be back in a hurry. The British place people who read poetry aloud in company in the same category as drunks, politicians and proselytisers of all kinds. Poetry is pretentious, boring, priggish — or so we tell ourselves. And of course a given poem may well be any or all of those things. But it isn't necessarily so.

Last week I had a singular opportunity to try this experiment before a captive audience of several hundred people at the Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival. The sort of people whose idea of a good holiday is to brave the drizzle and mud to hear writers arguing in tents are by definition a minority, though I dare say many read *The Times*. Their passion for literature alarms even some people in the book trade. I

found myself in the health-food shop overhearing a man with more than a passing resemblance to the Ancient Mariner, noisily denouncing the festival and all who attended it. On closer inspection, he turned out to be Richard Booth, the self-proclaimed "King of Hay", who owns the castle and various second-hand bookshops there. I could not help noticing that in all Hay's many bookshops, including his, the tills were ringing merrily.

My audience, however bookish, must have felt ambushed when I told them that I was going to read the most important poem written since 1945; and their hearts may have sunk even further when I said that it was in German and that they were going to hear it in the original first. Yet lots of them thanked me afterwards for reading it in both languages: one even said she had been moved to tears.

The poem was *Todesfuge* (*Deathfuge*) by the Jewish poet Paul Celan. It was written during the Second World War in his home town of Czernowitz, then in Romania, now the Ukraine. It was his

Versed in poetic justice

It was a Jew who showed that, even after Auschwitz, German was a poet's language

first published poem, and the first under his pen-name "Celan". This was a reversal of the real one, Antschel; as Noel Malcolm pointed out to me, the usual pronunciation of Celan ("Saylahn") is wrong: it ought to be "Chelahn".

After the Nazi invasion of Russia, Celan had come home one morning to find his house boarded up and his parents deported to their deaths; he never saw them again. He spent two years in a Romanian labour camp, somehow returned alive and in 1947-48 made his way via Vienna to Paris, where he settled. Though his fame spread, and *Deathfuge* in particular became a text familiar to every German schoolchild, Celan suffered terribly from the legacy of the Nazi genocide.

His depressions were exacerbated by the irrational guilt that plagued so many of his fellow survivors; worse, he was accused of plagiarism, and in postwar Europe he found anti-Semitism everywhere. In 1970 he drowned himself in the Seine; he was 49.

John Felstiner, an American critic, has now written the first full biography: *Paul Celan: Poet, Survivor, Jew* (Yale University Press, £19.95). Felstiner is clear, intelligent and quietly erudite. Nor does he neglect the poetry while narrating this harrowing life story; his translations are sensitive to the infinite nuances of Celan's formidably introspective verse. This will surely remain the definitive work on him.

All the same, I cannot help wishing that George Steiner, Celan's most vigorous champion in

this country, had written a book about him. In a long review-essay in last week's *Times Literary Supplement*, Steiner offered an illuminating discussion of Celan's improbable relationship with Martin Heidegger, the philosopher who had once hailed the "inner truth" of National Socialism and denounced Jewish colleagues to the authorities. Celan cannot have been an easy companion on their walks through the Black Forest. He did not even want to share a publisher with Heidegger's friend, the writer Ernst Jünger (who has recently celebrated his 100th birthday), because Jünger had fought in the Wehrmacht. Yet Jünger's 1939 novel *On the Marble Cliffs* was an anti-Nazi tract which was soon banned. I am not persuaded by Steiner's claim that, in *Deathfuge*, Celan alluded to this novel with his famous metaphor "Death is a master from Germany".

Isolated in the Bukovina, Celan could hardly have obtained a copy in the war years. The "German master" also occurs in a contemporary poem by Celan's schoolfriend, Immanuel Weissglas. At his last

encounter with Heidegger in 1970, Celan recited his poetry, then scolded the philosopher for apparently catnapping. Heidegger's only comment was: "Celan is sick — incurable."

Steiner compares this attraction of polar opposites to the friendship, almost two centuries before, of the poet Hölderlin and the philosopher Hegel. Celan identified closely with Hölderlin, who went mad; and his suicide, so chillingly akin to that of Primo Levi in 1987, may have been prompted by a fear of the same fate. Steiner oddly suggests that he chose to die on April 20 because it was the anniversary of Hitler's suicide; in fact it was the Führer's birthday (he died on April 30). Felstiner suggests that it had something to do with Passover. We will never know.

Suicide seems a strange way to celebrate survival. But a leading German intellectual of the day, Theodor Adorno, notoriously declared in 1955: "After Auschwitz, to write a poem is barbaric." Celan proved him wrong. (It is not true, as Steiner says, that "having read Celan, Adorno withdrew his edict". He reiterated it.) Celan may have despaired of his readers and of himself, but he did not lose faith in his mission: to show that German was still a language fit for poets.

Rooms with a point of view

A 'smart' building with killing on its electronic mind keeps Peter Millar in a state of fevered suspense

IT WAS Arthur C. Clarke's generally murderous HAL in 2001, *A Space Odyssey*, who set the seal on our fascination with the cybernetic psychopath. Unfortunately, Clarke himself recently debunked to me the best myth about HAL — that his name was derived by moving each letter back one step alphabetically from IBM: "If I'd seen the connection, I'd have given him another name."

In contrast, Philip Kerr has quite deliberately chosen Abraham as a symbolic name for the real star of his new book. Abraham is a super-computer, although, given that he has a built-in "self-replicating programme", a list of Old Testament genealogy might be useful. Consider this computer as patriarch of a new chosen race. "Gridiron" is the nickname given to Kerr's fictional implant in the Los Angeles skyline, a towering edifice of the sort that the Prince of Wales hates, built by an architect that nobody can stand. The difference is that this is the world's first "smart" building, in which every function — from the speed of the

GRIDIRON
By Philip Kerr
Chico & Windus, £14.99

lifts to the automated hygiene arrangements in the paper-free lavatories — is supposed to be controlled by Abraham.



Kerr: tailor-made for Hollywood

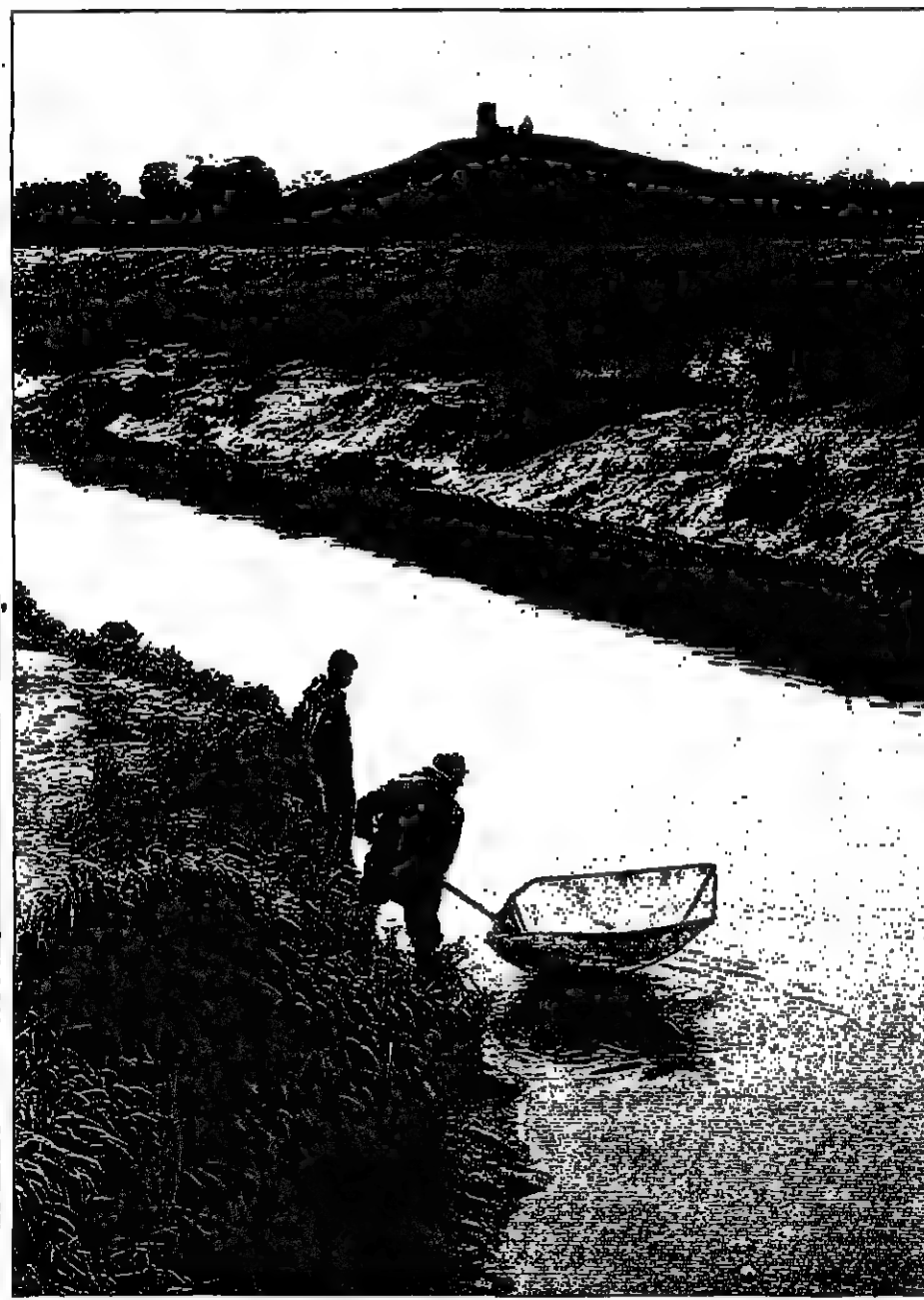
Kerr includes little architectural quotations to point us in the right direction, including this, from Sir Richard Rogers: "The buildings of the future will be more like robots than temples."

This book is a cinegenic set piece, tailor-made for Hollywood's special-effects people.

Take a dozen or so ill-assorted individuals and lock them up with a hidden killer which, it quickly becomes obvious, is the building itself. The "pick'em off, one by one" plot is as corny as it was when Agatha Christie published the classic which these days is probably known as *Ten Little Native Americans*. And it is still as good a technique for building suspense. As one after another of Kerr's characters comes to a new and ingeniously gruesome end, I found myself turning pages in feverish anticipation of the endgame.

Kerr has written a book ostensibly on the side of the anti-techocrats. In fact — as much as 2001 — it is clearly the work of a major fan of the future. In dealing with Abraham, as his victims discover, "game" is the crucial concept. After all, what are most computers used for most of the time? If you have never sat down at a keyboard to pit your wits against an electronic opponent, then you will enjoy this book as a self-justification.

On the other hand, if you are a dab hand at *Donkey Kong* or *Sim City*, you will just love it.



Elver fishermen on the River Parrett below Burrow Mump: from *Wetland — Life in the Somerset Levels* by Patrick Sutherland and Adam Nicolson (Mermaid, £14.99)

Where's the beef in Texas?

BORDER MUSIC
By Robert James Waller
Heinemann, £9.99

TWO novels on from the enormously successful *Bridges of Madison County*. Robert James Waller has yet to come up with anything more than a dogged old country-and-western-style repeat and fade. The formula was clearly defined even before its application ad nauseam: hardened into a cliché as flint-like as the look in the hero's eyes. Waller's archetypal hero is a restless guy — achin' bones, achin' spirit — and *Border Music*'s Jack Carmine is no exception. Girls cannot stick with his wild ways. His mom "makes the best cinnamon rolls in the world" and "he has an inbuilt taste for anarchy". Jack ("God's only free-born soul") met Linda Lobo ("she was what used to be called high-assed") while she was making money twirling her tassels in some no-hope bar. Not that Jack does not like a good twirl — he is all for it — but he steps right in to defend the lady's honour the minute some guy volunteers for a spot of audience participation.

En route for Texas ("home of the last unbonded men on earth"), Jack and Linda stumble on a fourth wedding anniversary celebration, and are touched, nay, humbled, by this rare spectacle of marital devotion. "In a world getting more and more used to losing, Mr and Mrs Edward Thorak had won big." Maybe Jack and Linda could have won big too, had Jack not been tortured by ghosts of Vietnam and Linda not been seduced by the lure of adult education.

Twenty years ago, someone like Jack Carmine might well have been a harmless enough sort of chap. These days you just cannot be so sure. Old-fashioned American values are not what they used to be. Here they find expression in a novel which is pretentious, maudlin and deeply suspect. Whoever complained that men never show their emotions should have held her peace. Quick! Stuff that male sentiment back under your seat.

ERICA WAGNER HELEN STEVENSON

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HAREWOOD HOUSE. Harewood, Leeds, is the venue for the Jaguar Enthusiasts' Club National Rally from 10am to 4.30pm on Sunday, 9 July. The event is one of the country's largest gatherings of Jaguars and other "classic" cars, and the public are welcome to share in the event.

Harewood House, the Yorkshire home of the Earl and Countess of Harewood, was designed by John Carr and Robert Adam. It contains outstanding collections of paintings, porcelain and Chippendale furniture and two new Watercolour rooms. Barry's splendid Terrace Gardens, overlooking the "Capability" Brown landscape, are fully restored to their elaborate Parterre patterns. The Bird Garden, woodland walks and Adventure Playgrounds make Harewood an ideal day out for all the family.

Admission (grounds, Bird Garden and event): adults £4; children £1.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered adult admission at child's price when accompanied by another full paying adult.

Details: 0113 2886331

PORTCHESTER CASTLE. Portchester, Hampshire, is the venue for "Soldiers of the Queen" from noon to 5pm on Saturday, 8 July and Sunday, 9 July. This small, but fascinating, display of infantry, cavalry and artillery of Queen Victoria's army in 1890,

A wallow in the swamp of New York's history in the summer of Gettysburg

"THE draft will be conducted on the basis of a lottery," Noonan explained. "Those who provide substitutes will be permanently excused." These regulations, drawn up in 1863 during the American Civil War, set off the great Draft Riot that nearly gutted New York City. The riot is the spark of Peter Quinn's first novel, a sweltering wallow in the swiftest summer of Gettysburg.

Quinn sets out to give us a panoramic view of New York when the war could have gone

The riot stuff

BANISHED CHILDREN OF EVE
By Peter Quinn
Penguin, £6.99

either way, and uncertainty hung thick as the stink of the sewers in the air. He gives us the hustling Irish with their close-knit, violent gangs; a jumped-up stockbroker who came from nothing and may return if the price of gold does

not rise: a beautiful mulatto actress who has been so long in the role of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*'s Eliza that nobody uses her real name. Sometimes their stories intersect, and sometimes not: the reader weaves through story and history as if strolling down Broadway, wondering where she has seen that face before.

At more than 600 hundred pages, the novel sprawls rather

than drives forward, and there is never a real narrative rope to hold the whole thing together. This is a pity, because certain sections clearly reveal Quinn's flair for story-telling.

But if Quinn's aim was to conjure up the spirit of New York in the 1860s, he has achieved it. "History, sir, is about to suck you in, true history, a place you must crawl through, a steaming, muddy swamp."

ERICA WAGNER

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The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

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4 THE RAINMAKER John Grisham (Century)	£15.99	0
5 FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS Graham Hancock (Heinemann)	£16.99	2
6 RIVER CAFE COOK BOOK Rose Gray & Ruth Rogers (Ebury Press)	£25	0
7 DESTINY OF NATALIE William Boyd (Sinclair Stevenson)	£9.99	0
8 THE SEVENTH SCROLL William Smith (Macmillan)	£15.99	3
9 LAST HUMAN Doug Naylor (Viking)	£15	4
10 KATE Kate Moss (Pavilion)	£17.99	0

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AUDIO BOOKS

ROB ROY
By Sir Walter Scott
Read by Robbie Coltrane
Penguin Audiobooks, £7.99 (2 cassettes, 3 hours)

FOLLOWING his reading of *Kidnapped*, Robbie Coltrane continues his sweep through the Scottish classics, though Rob Roy is a fleeting figure in this condensation. Coltrane comes into his own when the story switches from England and his Scottish accents are allowed full rein given Scott's heroine, Diana Vernon, is liberated centuries before her time, hotly pursuing our hero, Francis Osbaldstone. The villain, Rashleigh Osbaldstone, sounds like a silly ass, but then he is English.

As usual there is a satchel full of insider detail. The story crackles from the start although Tony Britton's worldly voice is a touch too mature for the young hero.

THE SNAPPER
By Roddy Doyle
Read by Ger Ryan
Read Audio, £7.99 (2 cassettes, 3 hours)
SHARON RABBITTE gets blind drunk and pregnant at the soccer club Christmas party. Her father Jimmy Sr welcomes the impending birth, taking more interest than he ever did in his own brood, much to the amusement of his wife Veronica. A warm, winsome tale of "new" family life.

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Nips, tucks and stabs

Cosmetic surgery turns to murder at a health farm.
Marcel Berlins learns not to trust face values

Donleavy: a 21-year legal battle over his infamous novel

■ THE HISTORY OF THE GINGER MAN
By J.P. Donleavy
Penguin, £12

THIS vast, exasperating but greatly entertaining volume is Donleavy's account of his restless life as an itinerant Irish-American, and in particular of his 21-year legal battle with Maurice Girodias of the Olympia Press over his infamous novel *The Ginger Man*.

When, after a long, dispiriting search for a publisher, the book was finally brought out in Paris by Olympia, Donleavy was enraged to find it in the pornographic *Traveller's Companion* series, other titles in which included *White Thighs* and *The Whip Angels*. Worse still, Girodias tried to prevent the book's publication in England, claiming that the rights were his. Litigation ensued.

Strangely, Donleavy intertwines his account of all this with the story of his friend Gaius Stephen Crist, an eccentric American with a "splendidly mystical way of wasting time", who provided the inspiration for Sebastian Dangerfield, the fictional Ginger Man.

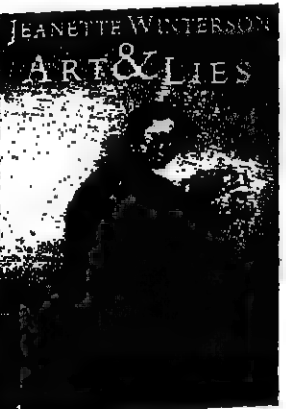
Crist lurches across these pages, along with Brendan Behan and other professional Irishmen whom Donleavy took up with when he was studying at Trinity College, Dublin after the war. Large parts of the book read like the ramblings of a drunk, but Donleavy's humour is infectious, and the story of his worsening of the cunning Girodias is deeply satisfying.

■ A PRIVATE VIEW
By Anita Brookner
Penguin, £5.99

"WHY should life seem exciting only if there's the possibility of throwing it away?" This typically Brooknerian question is at the heart of this, her 14th novel, which explores the conflict between stagnation and self-destruction. George Bland, the name says it all — has lived a staid life while longing for retirement with his friend, Putnam. When Putnam suddenly dies, Bland's hopes of liberation seem over, until he is confronted with Katy Gibb and the possibility of "anarchic self-indulgence". A *Private View* should both delight Brookner lovers, and confirm the criticisms of her detractors. If her evocation of a claustrophobic world is as strong as ever, so too is her cynicism and obsessive introspection.

■ RETURN TO THE DESERT
By David Prall
Fount, £6.99

TRAVELLING by foot and on camel, Anglican clergyman David Prall journeyed the length of the Holy Land, from Mount Hermon to Mount Sinai, the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments. It took him a biblical 40 days. Prall writes evocatively of the silence of the desert and finds in that uncomprehending wilderness not only a remarkable resilience in nature, but the spiritual resonance of the Old Testament. His enthusiasm can be a bit relentless, but his energy and goodwill shine through.

■ ART AND LIES
By Jeanette Winterson
Vintage, £6.99

IT IS the year 2000, and three characters are travelling on a train. They are Picasso, Handel and Sappho — though not, or not directly, the ones readers will know. Dividing the narrative into three ranting monologues, they discuss modern culture. A plethora of ideas — time, love, death, art, homelessness, castration — crowd the pages, jostling any semblance of plot into irrelevance. Winterson is wilfully obscure. She intersperses chunks of German and Latin with her prose, and transcribes an excerpt from the score of *Der Rosenkavalier*. But her exuberant lyricism can be mesmerising.

● Hazel Leslie, Sarah Hall, Jake Michie, Lucy Lethbridge, Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Nicki Household.

■ COME AND TELL ME SOME LIES
By Raffaele Barker
Penguin, £5.99

THE poet George Barker was powerfully attractive to women. Two fell in love with him simply from reading his poetry, and ended by having his children. In this lightly fictionalised account of her childhood, his daughter Raffaele (Gabriella) recalls the family's rickety Norfolk household — a bohemian stronghold of dogs, hens, and wild children, where the adults retire to the "drinking room" on Saturday nights. Gabriella is torn between pride and embarrassment at her unconventional parents — an ambivalence that runs through this amusing but wistful book.

■ A SMALL PLACE
INITIALLY
By Eric Newby
Zigzag, £5.99

AS AN ESCAPED POW in 1943, Newby fell in love twice: first with a girl called Wanda, who subsequently became his wife, and then with the Apennine region of Italy, where they bought a near-derelict farmhouse. This is the tale of its transformation from a ramshackle structure where umbrellas were used in bed, to a habitable house. Newby glides from twinkling anecdote to sadness as his lonely paradise is slowly engulfed by supermarkets and Toyotas.

■ ENTERTAINING ANGELS
By Marina van der Vyver
Penguin, £4.99

DISTRAUGHT about her failed marriage and a string of miscarriages, Grief, a writer and collector of fairytales, decides to gas herself. But she's put off, as she later tells her therapist, by a dead cockroach in the oven. Her big problem, she realises, is that she has always judged men by the contents of their bookshelves rather than the colour of their underpants. Salvation arrives in the form of a heavenly young man whose uncomplicated eroticism helps her rediscover love. A delicious blend of humour and insight.

THE very words induce a frisson of apprehension and distaste: rhinoplasty, liposuction, silicone implants. This is the vocabulary of "aesthetic" (what used to be "cosmetic") surgery, evoking images of botched operations and repellent disfigurement; of incompetent or malevolent surgeons wielding their scalpels on pathetic women, whose only mistake was to desire everlasting beauty and youth.

Hannah Wolfe, gritty feminist private eye, is sucked into the world of artificial glamour by way of an investigation at a

fashionable, women-only health farm: someone has been sabotaging the expensive treatments, slipping slimy carp into the Jacuzzi and leaving a Marks & Spencer senior buyer with an indigo face after a peat bath. Such practical jape takes a more serious turn, and may be linked to the vicious anonymous notes sent to the Harley Street guru of aesthetic knitting, Maurice Marchant, husband of Olivia, the health farm's stunning, but much cosmetically re-arranged, owner.

■ UNDER MY SKIN
By Sarah Dunant
Hamish Hamilton, £14.99

The dedicated Wolfe, in the cause of verisimilitude, researches these painful subjects in some detail. Her own emotional and sexual life dormant, and still suffering the

psychological effects of a vicious attack which has affected her own looks, the vulnerable Wolfe sleuths carefully and dangerously. A frenzied killing leads to gruesome discoveries of the realities behind the smiling façade of the beauty business and the people who control it. The climax is shocking, violent and disturbing.

As is her custom, Sarah Dunant does not shirk from

confronting the moral issues provoked by her heroine's inquiries — about our society's perceptions of ageing and of physical attraction, and the lengths to which women are prepared to go (and to be exploited) in conforming to the goal of looking good for men. It is that ability to integrate a stimulating intellectual argument with her thoroughly structured plot, spot-on atmosphere and convincing characters that places Dunant very near the top of modern British crime writing.

I have one caveat. Hannah Wolfe herself is becoming a



Dunant: moral issues

tiny bit too serious, lacking the insouciance of her previous two books. I know people keep trying to kill her, which cannot be good for her sense of humour, but she could lighten up just a little.

Two insiders reveal the banality of London's underworld, says Laurie Taylor



Mythmakers: Reggie (left) and Ronnie Kray at home in the East End — "just bloody thugs, simple as that. Leeches"

Gormless in gangsterland

AFTER all the sentimental and self-justifying nonsense which recent films and autobiographies have wrapped around the life and times of the Krays and the Great Train Robbers, it is a huge relief to discover two accounts by well-placed insiders which are so resolutely critical and unromantic.

If Albert Donoghue had not waited 25 years before telling the story of his life as Reggie Kray's right-hand man, we might even have been spared some of the sillier notions about the Twins as basically decent and charitable East End boys who provided a valuable protection service for a few harmless if shady club owners, and who never hurt anyone but other criminals who had stepped out of line. Donoghue is hardly neutral. The evidence he gave against the Krays was crucial to the prosecution. But there is nothing vindictive about his account. It is rather as though, under Martin Short's expert prompting, he had grudgingly decided to tell the murderously banal story of life with the Krays because of a mounting irritation with the accumulating myths about their evil empire. As he sardonically reflects: "I'm amazed I stuck

■ THE KRAYS' LIEUTENANT
By Albert Donoghue and Martin Short
Smith Gryphon, £15.99■ THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A THIEF
By Bruce Reynolds
Bantam Press, £15.99

disorganised and fatally undermined by their unsavoury reputation and their reckless pursuit of short-term gains. Neither of them could read or write beyond a normal six-year-old's ability and neither could they count or calculate. "They had just three things going for them: considerable physical strength, a ruthless capacity to direct it and instinctive animal cunning."

Donoghue is hardly neutral. The evidence he gave against the Krays was crucial to the prosecution. But there is nothing vindictive about his account. It is rather as though, under Martin Short's expert prompting, he had grudgingly decided to tell the murderously banal story of life with the Krays because of a mounting irritation with the accumulating myths about their evil empire. As he sardonically reflects: "I'm amazed I stuck

it out so long with the Firm. I must have been mad. I could have had a good life running my own decorating business."

Bruce Reynolds has less subversive intentions. As the mastermind behind the Great Train Robbery he is hardly about to admit that it involved anything other than a considerable degree of cunning and forethought. But his story stands apart from other criminal reminiscences for its almost poignant anti-heroism. Even as a tearaway delinquent, Reynolds was always less interested in asserting his superiority over the "mugs" he robbed than in using his gains to get what he conceived as the good life: a villa in the South of France, a stack of modern jazz records, an attractive wife and family.

The poignancy lies not in his eventual failure to achieve such conventional goals, but in his gradual recognition of how their relentless pursuit nearly deadened his own sensibilities and deprived him of the woman he loved. This is one of those rare crime biographies which is skilful enough to capture both the immediate excitement of crime and the dull price it so often exacts from even the most successful of its adherents.

Half of Josephine Hart's new novel is in the form of a play

Dead chic but too playful

■ OBLIVION
By Josephine Hart
Chico & Windus, £12.99

limbed researcher. They make love in hotel rooms under the watchful eye of Laura, who is not ready to be replaced. Despite his professional success as a media polymath, or perhaps because of it, Andrew feels inferior when confronted by those with intellectual gravitas: the parents of his dead wife, or Catherine Samuelson, the famous playwright who has granted him a rare interview and lets him watch her new work in progress.

It is her play, called *The Book* — Hart's term. Absurdist joke — which forms the core of this book. The cast includes Max, the mincing Master of Death and his gallery of dead characters — a four-year-old girl, an IRA killer, an abused

wife, a chilly upper-class adulterer, among them, all clamouring to tell their stories to ward off oblivion.

In Hart's first two books, the reader is drawn inexorably into their tainted heart: the doomed affair between the father and his son's fiancée in *Damage*; the revenge's tragedy of *Sin*. *Oblivion* is more contemplative, less focused, and the true drama — Laura's grieving mother as avenging angel — never quite takes off.

It is easy to see why Hart's books are made into films. The images which linger are strangely cinematic: *Sin*'s heroine who dresses up in the clothes of the cousin she hates; the lover's elaborate bondage ritual in *Damage*. Even the times seem tailor-made for the posters: "Damaged people are dangerous. They know they can survive," and now, "Happiness is a decision. Make it. And don't cry." Where *Damage* and *Sin* have gone, *Oblivion* is sure to follow: into celluloid via bestsellerdom. Only this time, it might make a better movie than book.

GINNY DOUGARY

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Allister Horne on Churchill's declining years; Piers Paul Read on John Paul II and the Jesuits; Philip Howard on William Golding's posthumous novel; Michael Hofmann on Malcolm Lowry's letters; Brian Alderson on a history of children literature

Take my wife...please

Mid-life crises, marital strife and infidelity are always good for a laugh

■ CASTING OFF
By Libby Purves
Seagull, £15.99■ THE TENNIS PARTY
By Madeleine Wickham
Black Swan, £5.99

Purves: a comfortable, comforting formula

This is a comfortable, comforting formula in which the demons and beasts that stalk the unvarnished fairy tale have been banished, and the author exploits it with humour, humanity and with relish

for the enjoyably mundane — if you wish to know how to heat up soup in a heaving cockpit or the mysteries of gybing, look no further. Therein lies the novel's appeal: we Keiths and Joannas crave happy endings and proof that affection can survive the toughest storms. All of which the author unselfishly provides.

Sharper penned and less forgiving, Madeleine Wickham assembles an unlikely bunch of so-called friends in *The Tennis Party*. Tennis may be the excuse for the gathering, but money supplies the social adhesive and the divisive factor during a weekend which sees the host endeavouring to sell dodgy investment plans to his guests, a husband's appalled discovery of his wife's liabilities and a divorced wife turning up determined to seduce her former spouse right under the nose of his present one.

Plot and entertainment hinge on who is going to behave the worst, and, unsurprisingly, by Sunday afternoon the score is no love at all. Nevertheless, being predictable does not mean you cannot enjoy it.

The author extracts some comic moments, is capable of tenderness and, behind the sometimes plonking characterisation, lurks a subtler writer.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

PROPERTY

17

Thinking of building a garden shed or a dog kennel? Be sure to check whether you need planning permission

What goes up can also come down

After Diane and Michael Young's dogs dug up the floor of their new kitchen, gnawed the units and had eaten the washing machine door, the couple built a £3,000 wooden kennel and concrete run to stop the dalmatian and boxer further destroying their home in Bath. They also decided to build a greenhouse and shed in their garden (see picture below right).

Only when someone complained to Bath City Council did the Youngs realise they needed planning permission. In March, their retrospective joint planning application for all three was refused because, the council said: "The erection of the dog kennel would seriously detract from the amenities enjoyed by adjoining residents and from the character of this part of the conservation area."

The Youngs intend to appeal against the council's instruction to pull the kennel down, and are reapplying for permission to keep the shed and greenhouse. "We didn't realise we needed planning permission," says Mrs Young. "When planning officers came round to measure up, the shed was over the permitted size for a conservation area." The Youngs' plight is complicated by strict conservation area laws, but shows how complex planning laws can confound anyone.

Building a new house is subject to even more complications, including a council's development plan. It is simplest to buy a piece of land which already has outline consent and apply for detailed approval when plans are drawn up.

Work should never be started on any project without written planning permission, or enforcement notices can empower planning officers to bulldoze a new building — and bill the owner for demolition. Anyone who thinks they can get away with changing their plans after approval are taking a big risk.

A new £500,000 eight-bedroom house was demolished and the site grassed over at Allensford, near Consett, Co Durham, when Tyndale council learnt it was twice the size of the approved plans for a stone cottage and built 47 yards from the agreed site. The destruction ended a six-year planning wrangle.

People may regard the system with

trepidation, but getting a planning decision takes less time than most think. In England, applications peaked at 623,000 during the 1988-89 property boom, compared with about 450,000 now. In 1988-89 only 43 per cent of decisions were made within eight weeks compared with 65 per cent last year. About 85 per cent of applications are granted.

Most planning departments at local council offices give initial advice over the telephone; they will know if your property is listed, if it is in one of the 8,000 conservation areas, and guide you through the maze of rules.

Since 1992, councils have been obliged

to advertise applications in the local press, by a notice on site, or by writing to neighbours, allowing objectors to give their views. A planning officer will visit the site, discuss the proposal, and may suggest changes to help it comply with planning policy. If no decision is made by the council within eight weeks of the date of application, the applicant can appeal to the Department of the Environment which may appoint an inspector to decide the appeal. When permission is granted it is valid for five years.

If permission is refused, the applicant can appeal to the environment secretary within six months of the decision notice.

The case will be dealt with by a planning inspector. Although it costs nothing to appeal, advice from a planning consultant can be expensive, and the process takes between four and six months.

Christopher Shepley, the chief planning inspector for England and Wales, says about a third of appeals are successful. His 320 inspectors deal with 4,500 appeals a year, 80 per cent in writing, the rest by informal hearings or public inquiries. Objectors can also appeal against a planning decision: if something is built without consent, people have four years in which to object.

"The most common problems are

building without consent, not sticking to the plans and change of use — such as starting a car repair business from home without approval," Mr Shepley says.

Planning consent is separate from building regulation approval which is concerned purely with the building technicalities and safety of what you propose — a council's building control department will confirm if an application is necessary. Confusingly, some councils run the two departments from the same base.

David Meadowcroft, a travel agent, tangled with the system when he built a two-storey bathroom and bedroom extension on to his Victorian home in Greenwich, southeast London. He had been granted planning permission four years before, but he asked to change the plan slightly.

The council verbally gave the go-ahead. But when the roof was being tiled, a neighbour objected because the extension differed from the original plan. It was only then that the Meadowcrofts learnt the building control department had approved the changes, not the planning department.

"They'd checked our work every day but we did not realise they were building regulations people because they worked in the same department as planning," Mr Meadowcroft says.

"It was a two-year nightmare. We were told to knock down the extension, but by this time we had spent all our money and could not afford the £2,000 it would cost."

The family was rescued by the charity, Planning Aid for London (PAL) which gives free advice and help with an application or an objection. PAL provided a volunteer, Philip Ware, to help the Meadowcrofts successfully appeal. (For regional branches contact local offices of the Royal Town Planning Institute.)

Try to win your neighbours' approval by showing them plans before applying for permission. Their objection could sway the planning authority into refusing an application, although the decision will be based on the merits — or otherwise — of your case.

CHRISTINE WEBB

Stick to the planning rulebook

IF YOU are thinking of making a planning application, remember:

□ Most authorities produce planning guidance notes or a handbook.

□ Observe the guidance given and, if you are not sure, ask.

□ Check whether your house is listed. In a conservation area, if your lease prohibits certain works, or extra restrictions apply, which can remove some or all permitted development rights.

□ Make a scale drawing of the existing building and site on graph paper to help the authority decide in principle if permission is needed.

□ Check with the council's building control department.

□ Consult your neighbours.

□ Put all your dealings with the planning department in writing; confirm any verbal approval by letter.

□ If you need planning consent, you must fill in a form, pay a fee (about £70 for an extension, £140 for a new house), and support the application with drawings that show clearly what you intend to do. For small projects, these need not come from an architect, whose fees can swallow up to 16 per cent of the total budget. A building surveyor will often do production drawings much more cheaply.

Useful reading: *Planning for Homeowners*, an excellent handbook, is available from Planning Aid for London (0171-613 4433), £5, including p&p.

Planning: A Guide for Homeowners, available free from the Department of the Environment, PO Box 151, London E15 2HF, and The Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

Home Improvements, a general guide, is available free from the Office of Fair Trading, PO Box 2, Central Way, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0TG.

Mr and Mrs Young are reapplying for permission to keep their greenhouse



Mr and Mrs Young are reapplying for permission to keep their greenhouse

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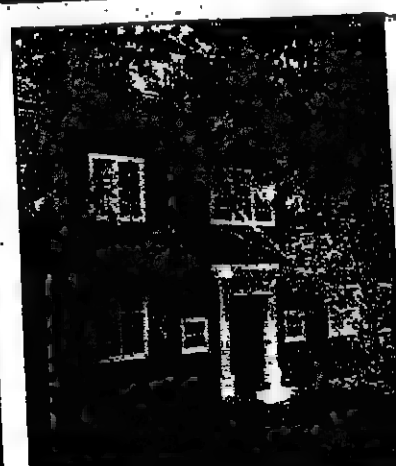
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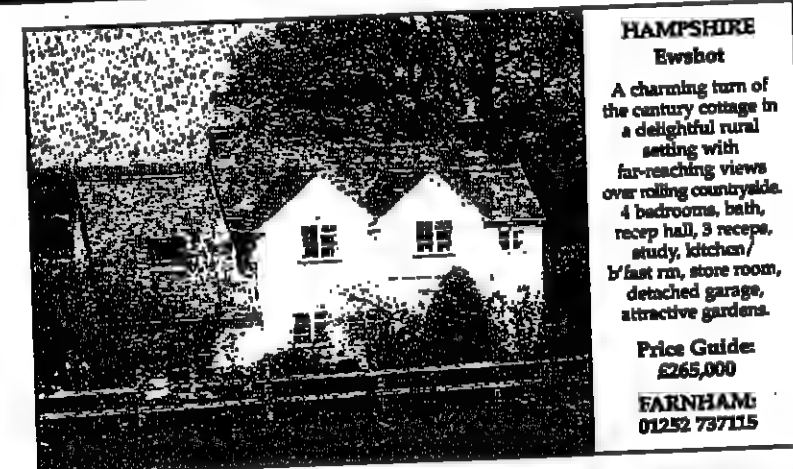
JESSICA ROAD, SW18 £238,000
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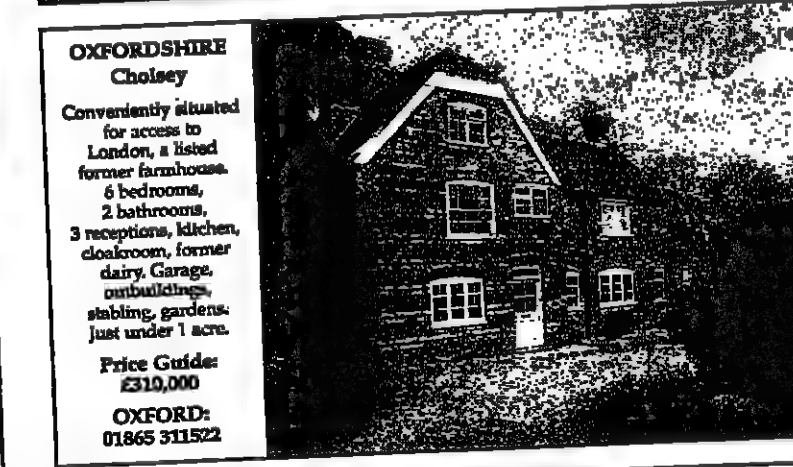


HAMPSHIRE

Ewshot

A charming turn of the century cottage in a delightful rural setting with far-reaching views over rolling countryside. 4 bedrooms, bath, recep hall, 3 receps, study, kitchen/b fast rm, store room, detached garage, attractive gardens.

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Price Guide: £310,000
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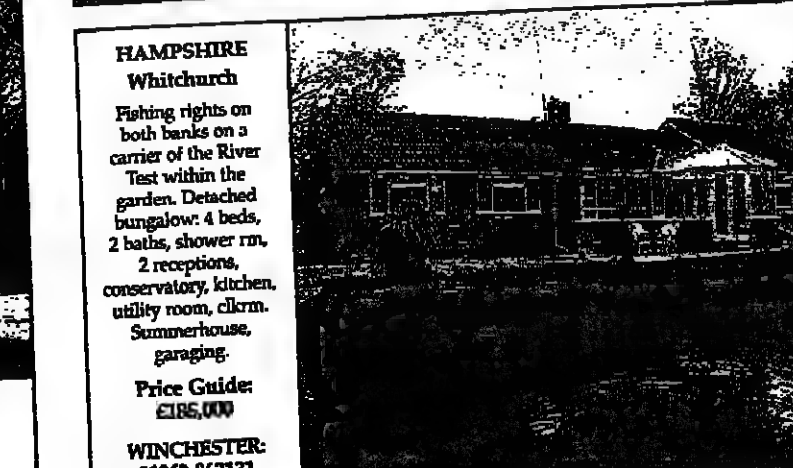


HAMPSHIRE

Emsay

Near Lyndhurst A late Victorian coach house/stabling complex, now a family house with an easily maintained garden, fine trees and a stream in a hamlet. 4 beds, 3 bathrooms, 3 receps, kitchen/b fast room, outbuildings, garaging. About 1 acre.

Price Guide: £360,000
LYMINGTON: 01590 677233



HAMPSHIRE

Whitchurch

Fishing rights on both banks on a carrier of the River Test within the garden. Detached bungalow: 4 beds, 2 baths, shower rm, 2 receps, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, clem. Summerhouse, garaging.

Price Guide: £186,000
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

هكنا من المنزل

... while Andalusia is renowned for its tranquil splendour, and Barcelona for its exotic and surreal appeal

Seduced by the siesta

It took courage to exchange the drizzle of London for the sun of Andalusia, but I was glad I persevered. The spring rains, which ceased the evening of my arrival, had spurred the local flora into action, and roadside verges and ditches had exploded into a pointillist colour-burst while, in Seville, the jacaranda trees were blooming in cool blue.

I was staying at the Hacienda de San Rafael, a converted farmhouse with spacious rooms arranged around a cobbled patio. Surrounded by fields of sunflowers, wheat, sugar beet, and cotton, the tranquillity of the Hacienda was in welcome contrast to the clamour of most Spanish towns. This was the perfect location from which to start my exploration of Andalusia.

A long infatuation with sherry drew me first to Jerez, a half-hour's drive from San Rafael. Although the city can't compete in architectural splendour with Seville or Granada, those cities can't provide sherry bodegas. Great white hangars from the outside, their interiors enclose

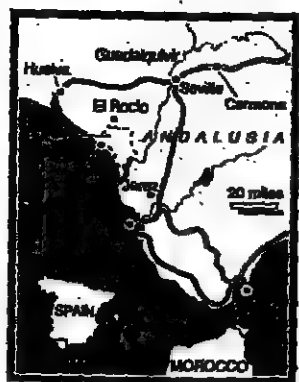
pyramids of sherry butts in immense rows. Stepping from the sun-baked patio into the cool of a bodega brings an assault on the senses, with the strongest of aromas of oak, wine, yeast and sand, moistened each morning to keep the wood supple. Many bodegas, situated on the outskirts of the town, are open to visitors, and provide a guided tour and a chilled glass or two of the superb *fino*.

Central Jerez is a maze of shopping streets and charming squares, a tangle of iron and stucco ranged against unrelenting whitewash. Your nose will lead you to the main market, with its stalls of squid, crab and swordfish. Close by are the *churrus* stands, where twists of batter are deep fried, then thrust into paper cones and sprinkled with sugar. They taste delicious.

Jerez is also home to an equestrian arts school and to the Flamenco Foundation, housed in a charming palace where serious students come to perfect their art.

West of Jerez, the broad Guadalquivir river, flowing down from Seville, separates fertile farmland from the unproductive Doñana, an expanse of dunes, wetlands and pine woods stretching for miles along the Atlantic coast to the resort of Marlascanas. The Doñana is a nature reserve, celebrated as a breeding ground for migratory birds.

The main access to the reserve is by Land Rover from one of the reception centres just outside the Doñana. The



drawback is that you must usually book at least two months in advance.

My own venture into the reserve was a disappointment, probably reflecting my personal preference for a long lunch spent scanning the horizon with binoculars.

There was a wonderful spot where sweeping dunes were trying to bury a pine forest beneath their measured advance, and it was exhilarating to be driven at breakneck speeds along broad empty beaches.

But drought had desiccated the wetlands, and the famous wild life, other than a few deer and grazing pigs, were enjoying their siesta.

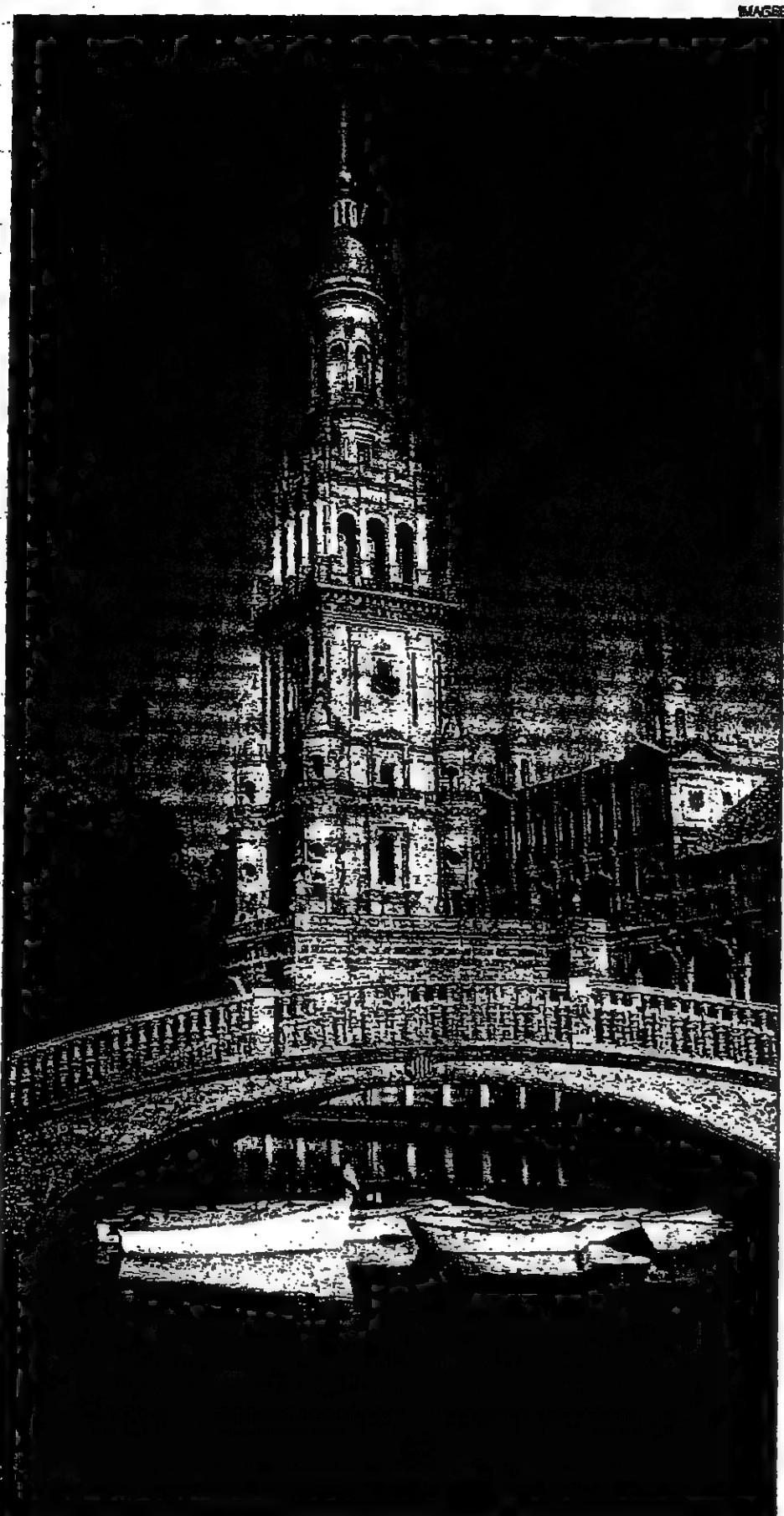
Someone spotted a yellow bird, but by the time I grabbed the binoculars it had, as birds do, flown off. The high point of the outing was getting stuck in the dunes and cheering on our guides as they took to their shovels to free the wheels.

As soon as we left the park the birds showed up. At the village of El Rocio, we lunched on the edge of a lagoon thick with flamingos. Rarely taken before 3pm, lunch in these coastal villages was always worth the wait. Bowls of pink prawns and tiny *coquinos*, the sweet baby clams I saw being dug up on the beaches, were followed by platters of fried fish and squid, washed down with a few glasses of chilled Manzanilla.

It is one of the charms of Andalusia that its inhabitants never seem to work.

We come to our offices at nine and look at the letters. At 10.30, we go out for breakfast. At noon, we nip out for a *coppa* or a beer. At 2.30, it's time for lunch and a siesta. My informant concluded, irritably, "We don't have any stress in Andalusia."

Even in Seville, 20 miles north of San Rafael, there is little urban bustle. At noon one day, I recuperated from the languid ardours of visiting the Mudéjar pleasure palace of the Alcázar with a plate of exquisite ham at Casa Roman.



The imposing tower of the Palacio Español in Seville, in the Andalusian heartland

only to find half the town in there doing the same thing. There is much to see in Seville, and even more to enjoy. Innumerable bars, flower-enclosed patio restaurants and lush parks testify to the overpopulation for the Spanish of taking it easy.

Just north of Seville, in the lovely old town of Carmona, I encountered a nun who communicated with visitors through a double grille, through which we exchanged banknotes for sweetmeats, made by the inmates. She had been incarcerated in the closed convent with seven other nuns for the past 45 years. Since the most junior nun was now 60 years old, it is probable that this closed order will soon be closed for good.

Useful connections established by the owners of the Hacienda gave us entry to two private palaces in Carmona,

inhabited invisibly by elderly ladies and governed by awe-some housekeepers, who showed us round.

Judging by the decor and furnishings, their overriding values were religion and floor wax.

"Downstairs," said the housekeepers, "is for summer. Upstairs for winter." Hence, two sets of kitchens, bath-rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms. Curtains of carefully tended creepers descended from the patio arches, keeping the living areas cool even in the most punishing heat of the summer months.

I squandered the rest of the evening in another palace, the Casa de Carmona, brilliantly converted into a luxury hotel. The most sumptuous furnishings coexisted with modern pastel-coloured walls — those overlooking the huge patio glowed salmon pink. The ar-

caded stables now serve as the restaurant, where I happily tucked into stuffed turbot, washed down with the finest old Rioja.

An hour later I was back at the Hacienda, and was soon contentedly asleep in a land fit for hedonists.

STEPHEN BROOK

The author was a guest of Kirker Holidays (0171-231-3333) which offers a package of three nights' half-board at the Hacienda de San Rafael, including flights and car hire, for £535 per person. From July 1 to 15 a supplement of £35 applies, and of £49 between July 15 and September 12.

Iberia Airlines (0171-830-0011) economy flights from Heathrow to Seville range from £165 to £250 until late October, depending on date of travel. Rates at the Hacienda de San Rafael are £90 per person half-board and £65 for B&B. Reservations through TFI Hotel Marketing (0181-563 2100).

Hand in hand through the city of unreality

The third *crema catalana* had a crust like a sheet of burnt glass. At the first touch of the spoon it splintered, and there, beneath the shards, lay the cool, yellow custard without which no Catalan considers lunch to be complete. "Go on," it winked at me. "Spoil yourself." And I did.

The first two *catalanas* had seemed like contenders, but the third took the gold. And if three Olympic-class meals in two days seem excessive, please remember that this was duty. My wife's birthday was in round numbers, so I had whisked her away for a weekend, to remind her that parents can still be partners.

Time in such a situation is precious. Barcelona, less than two hours by plane, offered warmth and exoticism, a plethora of extraordinary buildings, some good galleries and a feast of restaurants. As we left there was snow on the Chillems as we arrived there were ripe oranges on the trees.

Outside the hotel, handcuffs filled the street. We were a step away from the Ramblas, Barcelona's answer to both the Champs Elysées and Pigalle. Lined with extravagantly snooted mansions, the Ramblas are a parade of living canvases in primary colours: caged birds, flower sellers, the football club's many fans, street artists, human sculptures in extravagant poses, pickpockets, flea-marketers and young couples in love.

Even in early March, the avenue was full of people hand in hand or locked in embrace. We walked with them to the point where the cobblestones were painted by Miró — a red, blue and white circular bird. Then, diving to the left, we were quickly engulfed by the Barri Gòtic, the medieval centre of the city, a warren of dusty alleys and squares — washing on every balcony, a bar at every corner.

On this late Friday afternoon, amplified guitarists were flamencoing, political slogans were drying in new cement, cobblers were tapping, café-owners were setting

out chairs and shopkeepers were displaying leather, jewellery and arcane religious statuary. In the cathedral, by the light of a thousand red candles, women queued to stroke the feet of Christ.

"This is unreal," my wife said later, as we tucked into salt cod and spinach, angler fish and eel. And indeed Barcelona is Unreality City — home of Gaudí, the eccentric designer whose quirky genius shines from his unfinished symphony, the Sagrada Família church, and from the shaded paths of the Güell Park. Home, too, of the

founder of cubism, whose astonishing talent as a teenager still amazes visitors to Barcelona's Picasso Museum.

These, and much more, we saw in two days, yet we did not feel like packaged tourists — more like people who appreciated that a well-spent weekend *déjà* can sometimes seem like a week.

PETER BROWN

The author was a guest of A. T. Mays City Breaks (0141-951 8411). Two nights at Le Meridien hotel, with return flights on Iberia from Heathrow, cost from £294 per person.



Flower seller in the Ramblas, the heart of Barcelona

Inside out with style

FINDING a 50ft goldfish outside your hotel window should not come as a surprise in Barcelona, writes Marianne Darch. Surreal sculptures litter the avenues of this stylish Spanish city.

With the Catalans' long history of radical design and architecture, it seems only natural that one of the city's newest five-star hotels, the Hotel Arts, should break with convention. Opened in 1992, just before the Olympic Games, the 44-storey hotel towers above the Parc de Mar and enjoys superb views of the Mediterranean. The exposed metal girders encasing the blue glass tower seem to turn the building inside out.

Inside, the creative flavour is maintained with paintings and sculptures by native artists, including Rafols-Casamada, Vilaplana, Russero and Benassart, dotted around the hotel's halls and walls.

Of its four restaurants, the Newport Room is notable for its unusual mix of Mediterranean and Californian seafood, a match for the city's flamboyance.

The author was a guest of Elegant Resorts of Europe, 24 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2ER (01244 350461). Three nights at the Hotel Arts, including breakfast, private car transfers and return flight with British Airways, cost from £665 per person.

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MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE: Sally Emerson and her son go in search of ancient wisdom

All aboard for the sail of the centuries

What I couldn't get over, news having been on a proper cruise before, was the way the boat moved so far while we slept. One day we were in Egypt and the next day we woke up in Israel. We slept and — hey presto — we docked in Cyprus. Another nap and there was Crete. A leisurely breakfast the next day and Sicily turned up. The idea that you could actually lie in a bed, in your own comfortable cabin, and move to your next destination seemed quite impossible, and at any moment I expected someone to shake me and ask if I wanted a boiled sweet or some duty free.

The only cruises I'd taken before were interesting or deals — one a rough QE2 cruise with a seacock companion, the other a Caribbean cruise on a Disney boat where you kept bumping into Chip and Dale or Bugs Bunny which, if you were feeling queasy, made you feel worse.

On an 11-day Easter cruise we visited Genoa, Naples (Pompeii), Egypt (Alexandria, the pyramids at Giza and the Cairo museum), Cyprus (Curium), Crete (Knossos and the Iraklion museum), Sicily (the Valley of the Temples) and Salerno in Italy (Ravello).

I was doubtful whether I would like the cruise, going along nobly with my seven-year-old son to educate him in the history of Mediterranean cultures and religion. It was hard on him sometimes, having his mother along. He wasn't, for instance, allowed to kiss the stone in Bethlehem where Jesus was supposed to have been born ("There'll be germs," I said. "Imagine all the people who've kissed that"), but on the whole the cruise was a spectacular success.

It was an Italian cruise, on the Grimaldi line, and the food was copious and divine. Italians are good at living it up and every other night there seemed to be a gala dinner... lobster, caviar, vodka, welcome dinners, Easter banquets, Easter parades, Greek feasts. People kept having birthdays, as though this, too, was part of a general convivi-

ality. By the end of the cruise we had sung *Happy Birthday* so many times and clapped as splendid cakes were cut we felt rather Scroogish not to have had a birthday ourselves.

Being Italian, the waiters approached my son with an air of priestly beatitude as they spooned mountains of pasta on to his plate as if performing some important religious ritual. "Would you care for pistachio ice-cream tonight — and maybe a little *gianduja* cake, Mike?" they would ask, and would nod solemnly when he beamed "Si" to them.

The high point was the first stop, after Pompeii, Egypt, reached after two days on board. At the moment attacks on tourists mean that it's not an ideal destination for the adventurous solo traveller. Our gargantuan group — some 550 — set off in coaches from Alexandria, where we disembarked, to Giza with a police escort. We saw a dead horse in the street and watched a policeman shove his fist into a man's jaw with a resounding crack.

At the pyramids, Beduin selling trinkets popped up wherever we went. An Arab headress was put on my son's head and he was hoisted, delighted, up on to a camel and swept off towards some deserted sand dunes; something I could have done without. In the Great Pyramid we had to crouch down to walk in the pitch dark through a long, terrifying tunnel into the burial chamber at the centre. Nothing in Disney could beat this.

Cairo museum was overwhelming, a magical experience, but we lost time making unscheduled visits to the gentlemen's (which apparently had distinctly BC lavatories), and had to race through disapproving figures of other mothers as we looked for our group. The visit there and to the pyramids was too short. Our group, with an English-speaking guide (there were adequate local English-speaking guides wherever we went), spent more than an hour in an overpriced gift shop, but



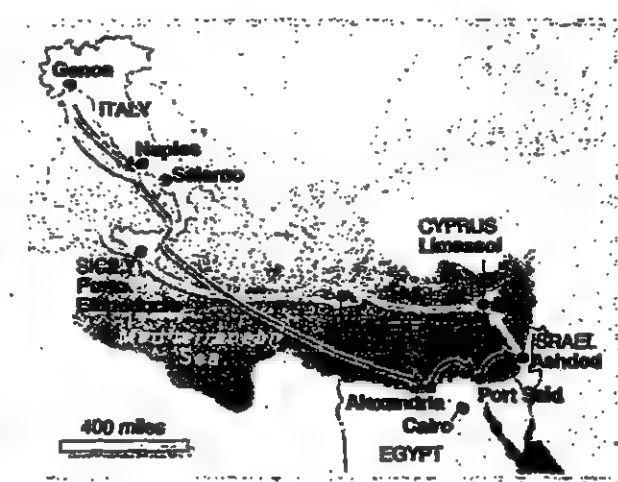
One of the high points of the cruise is a visit to the magnificent pyramids at Giza, where Beduin riding camels ply their wares to tourists



Ancient Knossos in Crete

passed quickly by mysterious jackal-headed gods, delicately magnificent tombs of gold, the bracelets and rings which had been stuffed between the folds of Tutankhamen's mummy, and the figurines of the 365 servants ready to wait on Tutankhamen in the next world.

The abiding theme of the visit was religion; and the idea of a future life into which you take your possessions or a civilisation dominated by a roaring bull, such as that at Knossos, is easy for a child to appreciate. However, my son was rather concerned about



where his religion, Anglican, stood — was it the right one? In Jerusalem we saw where Jesus was supposed to have put his head to rest on the way to the crucifixion, but just as he was approaching it he was shoved savagely aside by some fervent females in black who stroked the stone with unkempt passion.

At the Wailing Wall he observed me being nearly sent into the next world by a group of Israeli soldiers when I tossed a lollipop stick into the dustbin behind them. Three guns pointed at me. They were going to shoot.

"Who are those soldiers?" he asked. "Everyone has decided that Jerusalem is their Holy City — but especially the Arabs and the Jews. They both want it. It causes problems. They thought your lollipop stick might be a bomb."

In general, his contact with religions has rather dampened his enthusiasm, although we read a children's version of the Old Testament before going to Jerusalem and he loved every story. And, of course, this was what the cruise was about, old stories, and their physical remains.



Pompeii: the cruise stops at the famous preserved site

boredom on the trips, there were always bits of old stone to climb over, this being a central feature of ruins and of little boys' lives. Sicily's Valley of the Temples was a particular success in this respect only. However, he's been there, he's seen huge temples rise up against the sky, and picked almonds from the trees the ancient Greeks must have known.

Nowhere on the various visits was there anyone to tell him not to touch, or climb or clamber. Most people spoke Italian (there were also Germans, French, and a few

Danes, Dutch and Spanish), with only a very few speaking English. As one of the problems of cruises is generally considered to be the other people on them, being the only English people was liberating. We didn't understand what the Italians were saying. We didn't know their class, their jobs, their opinions. We just had to smile pleasantly in my case (and not have to join in any of the innumerable merry activities), and organise football games with emotionally unguarded Italian boys in my son's case, thus learning on the trip about national stereo-



Stone embellishment from a Pompeii house

Fact file

- Prices for the Easter cruise ranged from £1,600 to £2,280 per person, including all meals and flights to Naples or Genoa, the two starting points. Other shorter cruises on the Aeolian Islands, the "Mediterranean Pearls" to Spain, Tunisia and Italy, with prices ranging from £175 to £1,250. Children up to 15 years can travel for £170, in a third or fourth berth in most categories except the very cheapest. There is a club for children which operates all day until late at night except at sea time, but little English is spoken. Similarly, lectures on the sights to be seen are not given in English.
- Further details from Fred Olsen Travel Ltd, Fred Olsen House, White Horse Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5LL. 01473 232929.

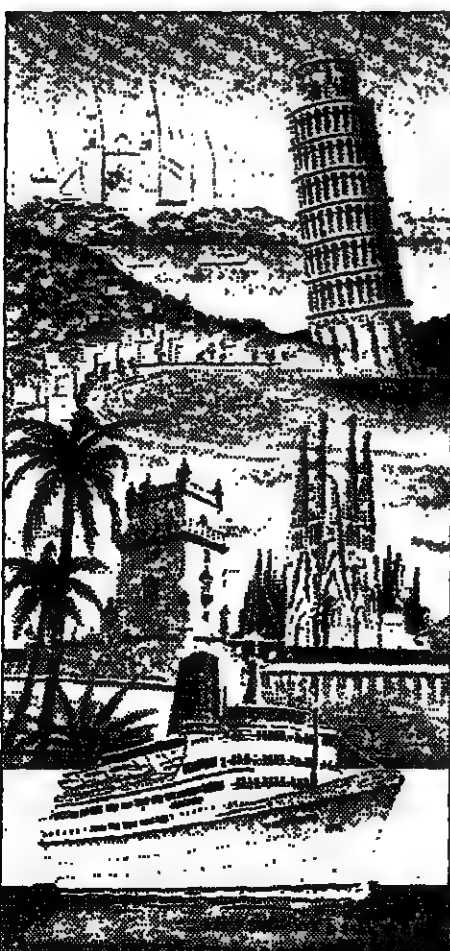
typing as well as the date of the pyramids. During games of football and hide and seek in the wonderful deserted ship's cinema and the discotheque he acquired a few words of Italian, chiefly numbers, helpful in counting in hide and seek and for scoring in football. Cache-cache (hide and seek) with some French boys was the best game of all when playing in the empty cinema, hiding behind seats and curtains.

We soon entered into the daily way of life and stayed up for midnight buffets.

But, above all, we'll both remember walking, or in his case running, on deck at night, watching the waves and the stars and the movement of the water swirling round the swimming pool, with nothing but the Mediterranean sea all around us... oh, and the beautiful woman from Belgium who'd come on the cruise with her elderly father but without her husband.

She had quite a different experience of the trip and the deck, beginning with an Evely Wainwright sense of panic and isolation and ending with a romance with an Italian teacher who wore a shiny track suit but was eloquent about the stars.

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HEALME (b) A kind of cherry, from the obsolete French *healme* a helmet, so "the Helms cherry, Heart-cherry, French cherry." "We may well begin to grieve at Christmas, and principally the helme or great Cherry."

Answers from page 25

(a) Of or pertaining to hernia or its surgical treatment, from the Latin *hernia* a rupture. "Herniary protrusion and pupil."

JACHIRE (c) An assignment of the king's or government's share of the produce of a district to a person or body of persons, as an annuity, either for private use or for the maintenance of a public (especially a military) establishment; also, the district so assigned, or the income derived from it. From the Urdu *jagir* holding or holder.

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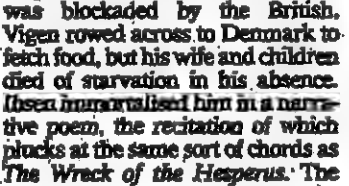
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Reaping the riches of a summer sea

The tradition of painting the houses white is said to have begun



A narrow-gauge railway, was opened in 1896, mainly to carry timber to Kristiansand, but it was

Setedal has its own, striking version of the national folk costume, and the traditional art of rose-painting on wood flourishes in the area. There are outcrops of minerals and semi-precious stones — beryl, amazonite and malachite — to be found, and the intricate work of the valley's silversmiths is much admired. Many of the old

Christianity was established in the area as early as 1050. The church at Bykle, dating from the 13th century or earlier, is one of the smallest in Norway, with room for only one door. In 1826, every square inch of the interior was elaborately and exquisitely decorated by a local artist. This was done to the glory of God, but it became the cause of priestly displeasure. When the eyes

For meat eaters, there's venison usually with cranberry jelly, and

If Sørland does not correspond to most people's idea of Norway as the quintessential land of the mountain and the flood, its inhabitants also differ from conventional Norwegian stereotypes. The dialect they speak, with its softly slurred, George-like "R" sounds, falls easily on the ear. They are notably friendly, have an engagingly simple sense of humour, and seem more outward-looking than many of their fellow countrymen — the mark, perhaps, of their long centuries of traffic with the world beyond the Skagerrak.

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GAMES

25

by Raymond Keene

WITH KASPAROV'S espousal of the Evans gambit are back in the news. One which I never had the courage to play, but which can lead to many fascinating situations is the Greco Counter-Gambit. It is known as the Latvian, as a result of efforts by Latvian correspondence players. It frequently leads to sudden and sharp denouements, and among the great masters it has been espoused, on occasion, by Nimzowitsch, Keres and Spassky. In his youth, even Bobby Fischer once lost against it. The games which follow convey the flavour of a once-forgotten gambit which is again becoming popular.

White: Pettersen; Black: Ortiz
Correspondence, 1970

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 d4 exd4 6 Nxd4 Qc7 7 Bg5 Qb6 8 Qd2 Qc7 9 Qd3 Qc7 10 Qd4 Qc7 11 Qd5 Qc7 12 Qd6 Qc7 13 Qd7 Qc7 14 Qd8 Qc7 15 Qd9 Qc7 16 Qd10 Qc7 17 Qd11 Qc7 18 Qd12 Qc7 19 Qd13 Qc7 20 Qd14 Qc7 21 Qd15 Qc7 22 Qd16 Qc7 23 Qd17 Qc7 24 Qd18 Qc7 25 Qd19 Qc7 26 Qd20 Qc7 27 Qd21 Qc7 28 Qd22 Qc7 29 Qd23 Qc7 30 Qd24 Qc7 31 Qd25 Qc7 32 Qd26 Qc7 33 Qd27 Qc7 34 Qd28 Qc7 35 Qd29 Qc7 36 Qd30 Qc7 37 Qd31 Qc7 38 Qd32 Qc7 39 Qd33 Qc7 40 Qd34 Qc7 41 Qd35 Qc7 42 Qd36 Qc7 43 Qd37 Qc7 44 Qd38 Qc7 45 Qd39 Qc7 46 Qd40 Qc7 47 Qd41 Qc7 48 Qd42 Qc7 49 Qd43 Qc7 50 Qd44 Qc7 51 Qd45 Qc7 52 Qd46 Qc7 53 Qd47 Qc7 54 Qd48 Qc7 55 Qd49 Qc7 56 Qd50 Qc7 57 Qd51 Qc7 58 Qd52 Qc7 59 Qd53 Qc7 60 Qd54 Qc7 61 Qd55 Qc7 62 Qd56 Qc7 63 Qd57 Qc7 64 Qd58 Qc7 65 Qd59 Qc7 66 Qd60 Qc7 67 Qd61 Qc7 68 Qd62 Qc7 69 Qd63 Qc7 70 Qd64 Qc7 71 Qd65 Qc7 72 Qd66 Qc7 73 Qd67 Qc7 74 Qd68 Qc7 75 Qd69 Qc7 76 Qd70 Qc7 77 Qd71 Qc7 78 Qd72 Qc7 79 Qd73 Qc7 80 Qd74 Qc7 81 Qd75 Qc7 82 Qd76 Qc7 83 Qd77 Qc7 84 Qd78 Qc7 85 Qd79 Qc7 86 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THE PORSCHE WILL BE ALONG IN A COUPLE OF SECONDS.

What you see here is a Volvo 850 T-5 Escalade out-accelerating a Ferrari 512 TR. It's a simple test: 50-70mph, in top gear. (The sort of acceleration you need to overtake long vehicles.)

The Volvo performs this manoeuvre in 7.2 seconds. The Ferrari does it in 8.2 seconds. Okay, it's only a second slower, but at 70 mph, one second is equivalent to more than 100 feet. (Or about 3 long vehicles.)

The Porsche 911 Carrera isn't even in the picture. It takes a full 0.8 seconds to make the trip. Fair enough, the test is in top gear, and the sports cars would out-pace the Volvo in a lower gear.

But as a measure of engine flexibility, top-gear acceleration is the yard-stick (see Autocar's performance figures). Besides, how many sofas can you fit in the back of a Ferrari? THE VOLVO 850 T-5 ESTIMATE. A CAR YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.

ONE FEATURED VOLVO 850 T-5 1981 ESTIMATE £21,790 ON THE ROAD. (EXCLUDING 6 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE £4.25 AND FRONT FOG LIGHTS £85.00). ALL PRICES AND PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TELEPHONE 0800 000 800. SOURCE: AUTOCAR 1980/81.

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